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Atkinson
Missionary Baptist Church

1903 - 1977

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WAKE FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA



This book presented by
Dora Ludlam Corbett

**History
of
Atkinson
Missionary Baptist Church
1903 - 1977**

**Author
Dora Ludlam Corbett**

**The Pender Post, Inc.
Burgaw, N. C.**

A Dedication

Atkinson Baptist Church

Reader, tarry here a mo-
ment, while yet you have
the time;
Learn from this the story of a
happy church sublime.

Born out of need in a grow-
ing town nearby;
Delivered from her Mother
without a pain or cry.

Nourished with the milk of
member love and such;
Growing into the temple of
The Atkinson Baptist
Church.

Read herein the listing of
those who had a part
In developing her history
from her very start.

Ministers alike and laymen,
always with heart and
mind;
Oft without reward or money,
for the betterment of man-
kind.

Some with gifts of speaking;
others with gifts of land;
Some with talents of music;
other with talents of hand.

Today, she stands a monu-
ment to the eternal God
above;
Built with stones of labor
and morticed with tears of
love.

Hearken, you who follow in
the sunlight of her glow;
By prayer and true devotion,
be sure she continues to
grow.

Rev. L. D. Munn,
February, 1977

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Foreward

The Story of Atkinson Baptist Church is one of faithfulness. It is basically the story of families who have composed the church; who in their services have both added blessings to others and drawn strength from the Fellowship of Believers.

There have been few dramatic achievements and no major desentions. Like the families who founded her or joined in her infancy and have remained faithful throughout two, three, four and five generations, the church has overcome her trials and tribulations by standing steadfast in her doctrine - acknowledging the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Ours is the story of the "Gifts" of the members of the "Body". Everyone has possessed some special talent or personality making a unique contribution to the history of the church.

Compassion for the unfortunate and distressed has been a distinctive characteristic of our people for almost a century. The community has known that a Christian church existed here, for its members have loved one another.

Gathering materials and compiling this brief history has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life.

Until recent years the only records available are those in the annual report to the association and in many cases dates are less than exact. In my research I found one common denominator applicable to the persons mentioned in these short records. The church played a vital part in their lives. To have taken no part in the work

of the church would have been as unthinkable to them as living in a community without a "House of Worship" was to the founders. There are a number of persons without whom I could not have completed this task.

My sincere appreciation is extended to Reuben L. Moore, Publisher of "THE PENDER POST" who donated the camera work, supplies and use of machinery as well as the know-how to get this booklet "press-ready."

A special thank you to Hazel Horrell, Clara Horrell and others who were as near as the telephone when I needed verification or information; to Neal Eakins who gave us the account of Rev. E. R. Hart's pastorate; to Kelly Marie Floyd who compiled the list of "Memorials"; to Sophia Floyd who helped with letter writing and to Mary Frances Pridgen who wrote the section on the library.

Wayne Arnold, Burgaw and D. G. Shaw, Atkinson, probably the two best informed local historians in the area, shared their knowledge of time, dates and places with me.

Senior citizens who led me back through their experiences have included: Mrs. Addie Moore, Mrs. Esther Woodcock, Mrs. Katie Corbett and Tom Smith of Atkinson; Mrs. Mamie Coker and G. B. Smith, Wilmington and Mrs. Ola Batson, Burgaw.

Data was obtained from the Wilmington Baptist Association, the J. Smith Reynolds Baptist Historical Library at Wake Forest University; Pender County Register of Deeds office and Pender County Board of Education

minutes.

Pictures were chosen at our best discretion of those available. We regret that space does not permit others to be used.

I am deeply indebted to Rev. L. D. Muna, Interim Pastor, who was truly the inspiration of my undertaking this task and Rev. Otis King who arrived as pastor in time to help with "finishing touches." Without the prayers and confidence of the members of the church, I could never have completed the assignment.

It would be unfair, if I failed to mention my husband, Norris Clifton Corbett, who has literally eaten from tin cans for several weeks. He also spent many hours in the Baptist Historical Library, the Wilmington Associational building and the Pender County courthouse helping me to search for minor details.

DORA LUDLAM CORBETT

Author



**SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY LIBRARY**
Wake Forest, North Carolina

The Genesis

"Upon this Rock I will build my Church and the Gates of Hell Shall Not prevail against it."

Matthew 16:18.

The iron horse had replaced the steamboat! There was mass migration from Point Caswell, Still Bluff and other riverboat communities to the railroad. The Cape Fear Yadkin Valley Railroad had come in 1875 and built a Section House in Atkinson in 1882. The people found fertile soil in the Atkinson area. They found a turpentine industry. The railroad was a means of shipping their surplus food and forest products. Of great importance to ambitious parents desiring culture and education for their children, they found a school. (Later railroad tax monies were to educate their children while folks in less fortunate districts away from the railroads were unable to build schools.)

In the village of Atkinson at the turn of the century stood Excelsior High School, symbol of a brighter future for future generations.

But for those of Missionary Baptist Heritage, there was no place to worship God.

Upon the faith of five hard-working farmers; one real estate man; the village blacksmith; three housewives; two lady school teachers and a dedicated Headmaster of the only High School in the area, Atkinson Baptist Church was constituted.

Those present on the third day of May, 1903 at Excelsior High School were: Males, Rev. J. J. Payseur, W. H. Lewis, J. D. Lewis, D. M. Lewis, J. A. Lewis, C. A. Barnhill, A. D. Horrell and G. W. Horrell; Females, Mrs. Jennie Payseur, Mrs. W. H. Lewis, Mrs. Jessie Lewis, Mrs. Graham Woodcock and Miss Ola Mitchell.

Their purpose was to constitute a church where they and their neighbors could, "give unto the Lord Glory due into His name" and worship according to the dictates of their conscience.

Excelsior High School was located on the corner of Front Street and Washington Avenue. (The lot behind Mrs. Henrietta Turner's home today). In 1903, it was recorded as a private school, which to all intents and purposes was a Baptist school as it was conducted by Rev. J. J. Payseur, a Baptist minister and vice moderator of the Wilmington Association.

A report filed in 1904 reads as follows: "Payseur and his wife Jennie have made numerous sacrifices. They have assembled a faculty to put the school in a vital relation to Religious Education. They have aided the poor to become educated. Payseur is now pastor of the Atkinson Baptist church which he was instrumental in founding."

Students came from miles to the High School, many boarding in Atkinson and returning home on week-ends.

"This school offers advantages to our boys and girls that they can hardly get elsewhere," said the education report to the association (1903). "In view of the matchless energy and sacrifice of its faculty, we would recommend that a committee be appointed to advise steps to be taken to put this school in a more vital relation to our denomination. May we (Baptist) aid in every way the poor boys and girls in their efforts to become educated."

These dreams of Excelsior High School becoming a Baptist supported Institution

were never realized for the school burned less than two years later, leaving for awhile, the church and the home to educate the children.

"He ran the school with an iron hand," said a former student of Payseur's. "He was smart, energetic and a strict disciplinarian."

The Lewis family was the first family of Atkinson in that they were the first to live here. The mother of the four Lewis brothers, named as charter members of the church, was the daughter of John Robert Bonham who once owned the land now known as Atkinson. (Bonham is buried near the Jay Woodcock home.)

Joe, Jeff and Dave Lewis were farmers. Jeff Lewis was married to Jessie Stringfield Lewis who died of Influenza in 1918. Later, Jeff married Jessie's sister, Miss Callie Stringfield who ran a boarding house in Atkinson. A son of Jeff Lewis, Tommy, is a member of the church today.

W. H. Lewis was Atkinson's first mayor when the town was incorporated in 1909. He was also a local magistrate and surveyor as well as a church deacon. "Mr. Will" was a member of the North Carolina Legislature in 1923.

Mrs. Clyde Lewis Payne, daughter of W. H., remembers living in the house owned by Mrs. Bertha Johnson today located behind the Harold Aitken home. "Our house was the only building in Atkinson except the railroad section house," she said.

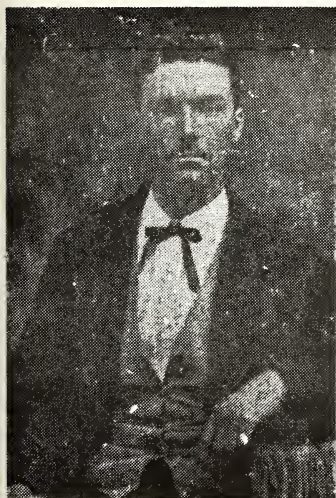
W. H. (Will) Lewis married Miss Carrie Peterson from Clinton. Miss Carrie had attended Woman's College in

Winston-Salem where she majored in Music and Education.



MRS. CARRIE PETERSON LEWIS

Miss Carrie had operated a grade school in her home prior to the Payseur days. Theirs was the gift our Pioneering!



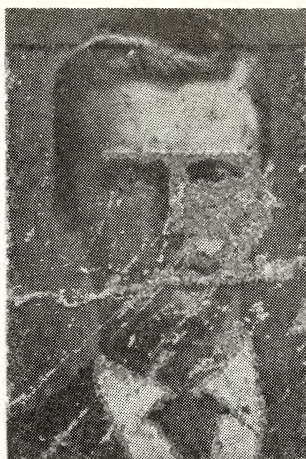
CLARENCE BARNHILL

Clarence Allison Barnhill was a likeable guy with a word for everyone. He was a blacksmith, a farmer and a

store owner. Barnhill had a large family and in later years operated a grist mill. His father had been a civil war veteran whose home was on the Colvin's Creek Road (now known as Rankin). C. A. Barnhill was not only a founder of the church. He was the first clerk.

The impact that family relationship has had upon this congregation might be emphasized by naming Barnhill's descendants remaining in the church today. There is: a daughter, Noami Baker; a son Floyd Barnhill; a grandson Clarence Baker; two great grandsons, Roy Baker and Wayne Haire; three grand-daughters, Gladys B. Haire, Evelyn Barnhill and Sandra Baker; a niece, Inez Harrell; two great nieces, Edith Woodcock and Clara Horrell; a great nephew Marion Harrell and two great great nephews; Kenneth Barnhill and Eddie Alton Harrell. Their gifts have been that of friendship.

George Washington Horrell, present on that Day of Destiny, was a deacon at the Haw Bluff Baptist Church before he and his wife Martha Woodcock Horrell settled in the Colvins Creek Community.



ADRAIN HORRELL

Mr. and Mrs. Horrell, a son Adrain P. and his wife

Mitt Woodcock Horrell were charter members of the church.



MRS. ADRAIN HORRELL

The church membership today includes grandchildren of George W. Horrell - Jeff Horrell, Sadie Henry, Ethel Horne Bordeaux, Roland Horrell and Roderick Horrell; great grandchildren Phil Horrell, Carlton Henry, Jay Woodcock, Raymond Horrell, Tommy Horrell, Sara H. Lanier and Odessa Cromartie. There are also nine great great grandchildren in the church and Sunday School. For five generations, theirs has been the Gift of Faithfulness.

Rev. J. J. Payseur was called as the first pastor and received \$100 per year. Services were held in the school building on the first Saturday and the Sunday after of each month.

John Jerome Payseur was born in Lincolnton, N.C. in 1867. A graduate of Wake Forest College, he received his D. D. degree at Southern Seminary. Atkinson's first pastor was a Doctor of Divinity!

After Excelsior High School burned, Payseur was principal at Six Forks Institute, a Baptist School. Later, he moved to Oklahoma.

On June 1, 1903, C. A. Barnhill, T. H. Woodcock and G.

W. Smith were appointed as building committee and Trustees of the infant church.

Other members of this family who made their contributions to the church include a son of G. W. Mack and his wife Sarah Edens Horrell who worked in the church from 1910 when they moved to the community until their deaths.

Miss Ola Mitchell was a sister-in-law of Payseur and a teacher.

Mrs. Graham Woodcock was the mother of Mrs. Eva Long. (Both are deceased).



MR. AND MRS. MACK HORRELL with grandson Raymond.

T. H. (Tom) Woodcock, one of the 24 children of John B. Woodcock (See next chapter) was not only a trustee, he was an enthusiastic fiddler. Whenever the occasion called for song, he and his wife Margie, who played the auto-harp, were available.

This musical couple through a daughter Mittie who married Adrian Horrell has "replenished" the church choir. Theirs is the Gift of Music!

George William Smith had moved to Atkinson in 1902 with a family of three sons and three daughters. Smith was an ordained deacon at Bethlehem Baptist Church before the school and the railroad enticed him and his wife Mehetabel (I Chronicles 1:50) called Hettie to bring their family to Atkinson and build one of the first homes there. (The home where Mrs. Katie Corbett lives today.) Three of the Smith



MR. AND MRS. T. H. WOODCOCK, MRS. VICK



THE GEORGE W. SMITH FAMILY at their home in Atkinson. Tom, Benny, Katie, Winnie, Mattie.

children, Mrs. Katie Corbett, Mrs. Mattie Johnson and Tom Smith remain in the church today. Theirs has been the Gift of Hospitality!

A 100 ft. x 150 ft. lot located on the corner of church street and Washington Avenue (lo-

cation of the present educational building) was donated by W. H. Lewis for the purpose of building a sanctuary. In a period of one year, a church building with a seating capacity of 250 was completed.

Although the deed for this property made November 12, 1903, was not recorded in the county courthouse until November 4, 1940 when Mrs. Lorena Bostic recorded it, the people had established a "House of Prayer!"



THE FIRST CHURCH BUILDING was completed in 1904 and used until 1948.

Chronicles

"Not Forsaking the Assembly of ourselves together."

Hebrews 10:25.

For the families who came by letter from the Colvin's Creek missionary Baptist church as charter members of the Atkinson Church, this was the second venture of faith in an effort to assemble themselves together in Brotherly Love.

Founded in 1879 and disbanded in 1902, Colvin's Creek Baptist, locally known as "Jack's Chapel", served a unique purpose in bringing together those of Missionary Baptist beliefs.

By Faith, these farm families who lived up and down Colvin's Creek sought a place to study God's word together. Their desire was to learn more of the ways of the Lord and to walk together in paths where He led, but they had no meeting house in which to sing Praises and render Reverence.

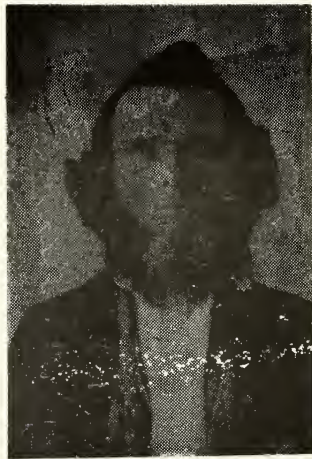
By faith, John Bizzell Woodcock (Jacky) and his wife Elizabeth A., made a gift of a church building site to Washington Henry, George W. Horrell and Hanson M. Woodcock, trustees.

Recorded in 1879, the deed read, "In consideration of an earnest desire which they in common with their neighbors have to see the cause of Religion and Sunday School advanced in the Colvin's Creek Community and of their intentions to erect a building in which to worship God, John B. Woodcock and wife, Elizabeth A., deed to the trustees of Colvin-Creek Missionary Baptist church, a plot of land at the fork of the road just above Woodcock's house." (This site is the present location of Jack Woodcock's home.)

Two provisions were stated in the deed (1) that the

Presbyterians may use the church as a place of worship at any time not conflicting with regular appointments of the Missionary Baptist and (2) that if said land shall cease to be used as a place of worship or for Sunday School, the land shall revert to Woodcock's heirs.

Since Elizabeth could not sign her name, she made her mark (X). Afterwards, the notary public, C. P. Moore, took Mrs. Woodcock in private where she swore that her husband had neither threatened nor forced her to sign her mark and that she did so of her own free will and accord.



JOHN BIZZELL WOODCOCK

John Bizzell Woodcock, is said to be the grandfather of all the Atkinson Woodcock's. He had two wives and 24 children--12 by each wife.

There are stories about this man's arrival in the area but space does not permit their telling here.

Jacky was a professional fiddler, playing for dances, etc. Although early Baptist excluded many for dancing "the Gift of music" possibly inherited from this man has been a blessing to the church.

"Grand-daddy Jacky" not only gave a acre of land and a talent to the church, his descendants have been so numerous and so many of them have remained in the community that one wonders whether the church would have survived without them. It has been estimated that two-thirds of the church today are direct descendants of "Grand-daddy Jacky". Their Gifts have included the gifts of gifts--charity.

Hanson Woodcock was the son of John G. He was also the grandfather of Jack, Wilbur and Gurney Woodcock who live in Atkinson today but are Presbyterian.



WASHINGTON BROWN HENRY

Washington Brown Henry, a grandson of R. J. Bonham, was a large land holder and the father of eleven children. Three daughters and a son were lifetime members of the church. Lorena Henry married E. G. Bostic; Mamie Henry married W. S. Carter and Sarah Bailey Henry married A. H. Pridgen Sr. Grandsons of Washington Henry who became church deacons were Durwood Bostic and A. H. Pridgen Jr. Through the years, theirs has been the gift of trusteeship.

It was at Jack's Chapel that W. G. (Billy) Horrell, the tall red-haired freckled-faced crippled church clerk saw his daughter, Esther (now Mrs. Esther Woodcock) baptized, but not before he used his walking cane to reach across the isle and polk his giggling daughter, thus reminding her that she was in the Lord's house.

When services were discontinued at Colvin's Creek in 1902, the Billy Horrell family (as did some others) united with the Colvin's Creek Free Will Baptist Church. (The church was located where Graham Cromartie lives today.) A grandson, Jay Woodcock, has returned to the Missionary Baptist faith and serves as a deacon.

The Free Will Church originated at Point Caswell and has been disbanded for many years.

In 1881, Colvin's Creek Missionary Baptist Church was granted permission to enter the Eastern Baptist Association, which then included the area now in the Wilmington Association. The report sent to the Association named J. W. Gurganus as pastor; W. G. Horrell as clerk, and R. C. Henry as Sunday School Superintendent.

R. C. Henry was the grandfather of James Tate Henry.

"In number we are 23 white males and 14 white females," the application to the association read.

By 1882, the church reported Baptizing six and receiving by letter seven making a total of 46 members. Pastor's salary was \$50.00 for the year and \$2.00 was sent to foreign missions.

Sunday School superintendents at Colvins Creek were W. G. Horrell, David Lewis and R. C. Henry.

Pastors were: J. W. Gurganus, 1881-1882; W. A. Melvin, 1883-1888; Julian P. Faison, 1889-1891; R. M. Hilburn, 1891-1894; C. B. Peterson 1895; John D. Larkins 1896-1897 and J. H. Dobson 1898-1902.

Records are available on five of the seven. Rev. Rufus M. Hilburn was a lay minister ordained and licensed by the Galeed Baptist Church, Bladenboro. He served as moderator of the Bladen Association from 1906-1910. Jack's Chapel reported no record of what they paid the good Reverend who came monthly to lead the worship.

The previous pastor, Faison received \$37.00 per year.

Hilburn had prayed that God would give him 50 years of service. At 74, he had been on the fields over rural roads with poor pay for 50 years when he died "en route to the churches" in 1929. His was the Gift of preservance.

John D. Larkins was ordained by the Point Caswell Baptist Church and pastored the Colvin's Creek Church in 1896. He berated dancing in his associational sermon at Mount Holly Baptist Church in 1899, calling for continued "Exclusion" from the congregation for this sin. Larkins graduated from Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary. He pastored in Henderson, 1904-1906, and in Georgia for several years. In a brief Biography of his life, Larkins is called a "dynamic speaker who earnestly opposed all evil." His was the gift of speech.

The Larkins family lived on Moore Hill near Black River, having settled there two generations earlier. Eli

Larkins, (Rev. John's father) became Postmaster at Atkinson in the early 1900's. After losing property in the Grover Cleveland depression, he moved to Main Street, Atkinson. A daughter, Miss Caroline Larkins was a long time Sunday School teacher. Remaining with the assembly today are a great nephew Norris Corbett; a great great niece Emily Simpson and a great great nephew Clyde Corbett.

W. A. Melvin was ordained at Harrell's Store in 1881 and preached twice monthly at Jack's Chapel for \$65.00 annually in 1883.

Julian P. Faison was a Civil War veteran and chaplain. For 35 years, he was "an honored and useful minister." He was visiting by the fireside of parishioners in Colvin's Creek and Point Caswell when "the fatal illness came upon him and he died July 3, 1890.



REV. J. H. DOBSON

J. H. Dobson began his ministry with the Colvin Creek families in 1889. He lived in the community and walked to Haw Bluff Baptist Church where he preached

for nearly 20 years, crossing Black River in a boat. "Many were the days he came home with "blistered feet" wrote his daughter, Mrs. Lillie Thomas, Richlands. "He felt the sweetest place to be buried was in a church graveyard," she added. Dobson lived to be 69 and had spent forty of those years as pastor. He is buried at Haw Bluff. His was a gift of Dedication.

Mrs. Thomas writes that she attended Sunday School at Atkinson and remembers Miss Blanche Lewis, Miss Clyde Lewis and Miss Caroline Larkins as Sunday School teachers. Both Dobson's mother and a one year old son of the minister are buried in the Woodcock Cemetery.

Dobson supplied at the Atkinson Church in 1918 and was Sunday School superintendent in 1904.

By 1902, church membership at Jack's Chapel had dwindled to 24 persons. When W. H. Lewis, Clarence Barnhill and Jessie Lewis travelled to the associational meeting at Bethlehem Baptist Church, Keith, N.C. in 1902, they gave no report but with renewed optimism spoke of beginning a new church.

Numbers

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved."

Acts 2:47.

In a report for fellowship day on October 27, 1930, Mrs. W. H. Lewis wrote of the church's first Revival, "Many were converted and Baptized."

By the fall of 1904, Atkinson Baptist Church had grown to a total membership of 71. There were 37 males and 34 females 12 had been Baptized; 4 had joined by letter and one had been restored to fellowship.

The most common causes of exclusion in the early days were dancing, drinking, gambling and non-attendance. The brethren were very strict in their discipline calling conferences regularly and showing no discrimination in their exclusions. Sometimes they turned out members of their own families.

The Rev. J. A. Smith came to the church as her second pastor. He was a confederate war veteran who had served as courier for Major General Whitney, having joined at age 17. A graduate of Davidson College and Theological

Seminary, Columbia, South Carolina, he had been wounded at Fort Fisher January 15, 1865. Smith closed saloons, fought for temperance, education, civic righteousness and soul winning. Smith was one of the temperance committee who wrote to a new Wilmington Baptist Association in 1904 saying "Ladies and Gentlemen, don't poison your bodies with Coco-cola." His was a gift of Evangelism.

When Smith moved on to capture larger audience with his fiery preaching, Atkinson called Rev. J. B. Newton of Kerr. The long walk from Kerr on the 1st week-end of each month only served to aid Brother Newton's long windedness during his sermons in 1906. That year the church budget increased to a grand total of \$259.25 and the Sunday School enrollment rose to 103 pupils. Newton's niece, Miss Clara Newton taught school and lived at Kelly until her death. The long winded Brother Newton was asked to preach at the Presbyterian

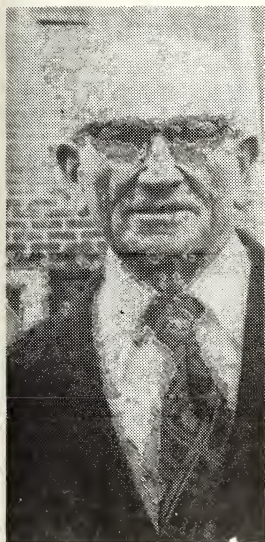
church in Kerr one Sunday and long after twelve noon, a young fellow in the congregation pulled out his watch opened the case, looked at it and popped it closed.

Without losing his train of thought, Rev. Newton removed his own watch, opened the case, said loudly, "click", and continued his message. His was a gift of Endurance.

Newton who was a Wake Forest graduate had a brother who was a missionary to Africa. His son, "Doc" had been football coach at both Wake Forest and State.

Families who had moved to Atkinson in the early days of the church included the Will Peterson family who came from Clear Run near Ingold in Sampson County. Peterson and his wife Mattie had eight children and drove a carriage (a two-seated buggy).

Matt Peterson who was four years old when his family arrived in 1904 remembers that the church was in the process of building. Peterson bought the home formerly



MATT PETERSON

the Church's first Baptist Training Union Director. He also taught in the Sunday School for many years. His wife Alma Bradshaw Cobb, a son, John Gray Cobb, and several grandchildren are still members of the church. The gift of Inventiveness was added to the body.

Depot agents have brought to the church their support and their talents through the years. Among the first of these was Ben Jones whose daughter Ruth led the first Sunbeam organization.

During the early years Brother Dick Lewis was sitting straight and tall in his regular seat on the front row when the minister asked, "Brother Dick, do you recollect reading the second chapter of Obadiah?"

"Why, yes I've read it a min-u-a time, Brother," he answered.

"Then, your Bible must be different from mine," the pastor answered, "mine has only one chapter in Obadiah."

When C. H. Utley arrived in Atkinson in 1907, Miss Caroline Larkins was 27 years old and feeling the danger of Spinisterhood.

Miss Caroline who remained single throughout her life and in later years denied ever having cared for a man was attracted to the slim dark - complexioned minister. At this stage in his life, Utley, like the apostle Paul had no room in his life for the affections of a woman. He went about his preaching and teaching with a fervent dedication. He was a shepherd to the Lord's people and a dynamic minister of the Gospel. He served as Pender County

Supt. of Education from July 3, 1903 - May 3, 1909. This was the period when T. T. Murphy went back to College. Utley asked the Board of Education to accept his resignation as he had other work he wanted to do.

Miss Caroline buried her heartache in the rearing of four orphaned nieces and



MISS CAROLINE LARKINS

nephews and by spending tireless hours preparing and teaching a Sunday School class.

Until her death on November 4, 1956, Miss Caroline never hesitated to point her right index finger in righteous indignation at a fellow parishioner who had erred.

Neither did she hesitate to aid a needy family nor to pointedly ask a neighbor or a stranger, "Are you a Christian? If her victim answered "yes", she inevitably said, "Then you should be a missionary Baptist." Hers was a gift of fortitude!

Years later her brother-in-law, G. B. Smith remarked, "There was one thing wrong with "Sissy's" true love. She misread Utley. You see, the Reverend Utley was cross-eyed and Caroline only thought he was making eyes at her from the pulpit."

Utley did marry later and had two children. A graduate of Wake Forest College, he

owned by J. J. Payseur. (Part of the same house now owned by Mrs. Henrietta Turner). Matt Peterson grew up to become one of the first deacons to be ordained by Atkinson Baptist Church.

The welfare of the church was utmost in his mind. A beloved mail carrier, there were times during the depression when he paid the church light bill as well as contributing his services and his tithe. "He was one of the Abrahams who were the backbone of the church during lean years," said a present member.

After his retirement, he and his wife, the former Lila Corbett moved to Wilmington.

Theirs was the Gift of Giving!

John Gray Cobb was an inventor of turpentine tools. His family moved from Claxton, Georgia and settled a couple of miles "up the railroad," North of Atkinson in 1901, when Marshall and Ola (Mrs. Edgar Batson Sr.) were young children. The family joined the Baptist Assembly and Marshall who was a life time member later became



C. H. UTLEY

resigned as pastor of South-side Baptist church to go back to the Seminary.

He wrote a History of North Carolina Baptist; a History of Wake Forest College and was instrumental in indexing church records.

Utley filled the pulpit of Burgaw Baptist Church the Sunday before he died at Rocky Point, where he was teaching at Rocky Point Institute.

A letter from John H. Burnett (Burgaw) written at the time of his death read in part . . . "Mr. Utley, had more to do with getting me in college than any other person. He was a man with a great mind and a heart of sympathy, especially for young men and women who were sincere desirers of mental and spiritual advancement. His interest had a great influence on my life." His was a Gift of Total Commitment.

Atkinson Church has been blessed with educated pastors who were held in high esteem. Among them was James Hilliard Booth, another Wake Forest man. He moved on to be pastor at Lincolnton First Baptist and later to organize a church after spending the years of 1909 and 1910 with the Atkin-

son Brethren and Sisters.

It was in 1909 the same year the town was incorporated that Atkinson hosted the Wilmington Association for the first time.

Thirty-six churches were represented at the two day event. Every family had visitors to stay overnight and business at the local hotel was booming.

By 1911, the church treasurer was able to deposit the collections in a local bank, first located in the back of G. W. Smith's store, and the offerings had risen to a total of \$364.62 that year. The pastor's salary was raised to \$135 for the year and a single foreign mission offering amounted to \$23.89. A. H. Costin, the depot agent who was made bank cashier when the "Bank of Atkinson" was built in 1912, was elected church secretary as "the funds have become enormous."

Thirty-eight years later when the congregation moved into the present day sanctuary, the deacons voted to give the old church "out-door cottage" to this same Mr. Costin who was then living in a trailer which had no plumbing facilities.

Meeting the train was the favorite past time for local residents and Sunday School Services held on Sunday afternoons was scheduled to be dismissed in time for the gatherings at the depot.

It was in 1910 that Mrs. Alice Glisson Corbett with eight of her ten children dismounted from the train in Atkinson. Henry Clifton Corbett, the head of the house and a son Norwood were driving the team and wagon with their furniture from Beaufort in Carteret County. They were "moving back", having been reared "over the river." (A term referring to people who live on the Bladen County side of Black River) Corbett had bought the farm now owned by Dalton Downing. The Corbets made a caravan down main street to the home of Cousin Eli Larkins where they resided.

A daughter, Mamie Corbett Coker remembers that walk down the wooded dirt street as a pilgrimage into the unknown. The winding street took them practically under the windows of the wood framed Baptist church. "Is this where we'll go to church Mama?" (And here they did worship for many years joining other families who believed as they believed and feared God as well as loved Him.)

The oldest of the Henry C. Corbett children (W. A.) was away at school when the family moved to Atkinson. He later owned a basket factory here.

The school which was being operated in the church and the one being built on the Wash Henry property enabled the three Corbett daughters to become school teachers. One of them, Lila, who married Matt Peterson was church hostess for many years.

A son, Norwood Clyde (father of Norris Clifton) remained a life time member of the church and loved it with a passion. Like Nathaniel, he was a man in whom there was no guile. His gift was that of undisguised honesty.

But mama (Alice Corbett) had heard that Geneva

(Geneva Larkins) had "up and got married" and she hurried her brood onward to learn the details. (Geneva had married George Benjamin Smith son of George William Smith). This had been a gala occasion held on a Sunday afternoon at the bride's home. The wedding was performed by the Reverend W. B. Rivenbark, the new preacher who drove a horse and buggy from Teachey. Smith, the bridegroom, decided not to spend the night at the local hotel, knowing what would await him there. He had helped to tie a cowbell under the bed in the "Bridal Suite" of the last couple who stayed there.

The Cicero Butler family moved into the community and joined the church about

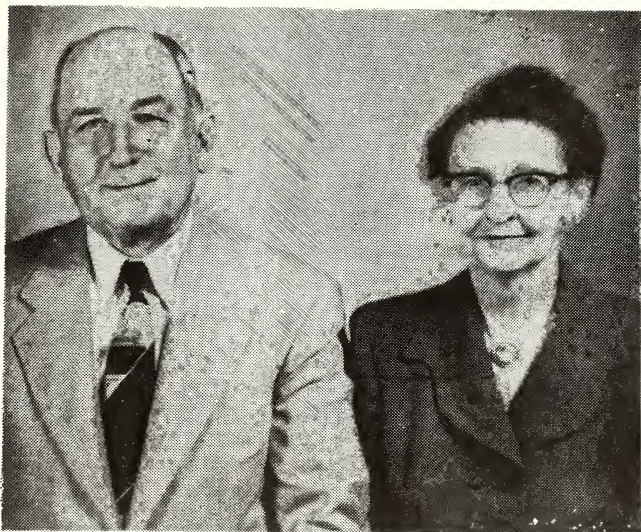
910. One of the sons Oscar married a grand-daughter of Jacky Woodcock, Ollie Woodcock. Their son, James Henry Butler became the first to go out from the church into full time Christian service.

A daughter Mrs. Lessie Barnhill is among the faithful, having been a teacher, a choir member and W.M.U. Director. Another son of Cicero Butler, Joe, has a son Steve, who was chairman of the building committee for the Education Building Margaret Bostic and Josephine Adams are daughters Jo Butler. Theirs is a Gift of Service to others!

The church now had services on the third Saturday and the Sunday following and so it was on the third Saturday that the people listened expectantly, for the good Reverend Rivenbark would arrive on the seat of his buggy singing the old favorite hymns in his best bass voice. A small dark man described as "not much bigger than five minutes," he was pastor to Centerville, Harmony, Mount Holly and Watha churches at the same time he served Atkinson. Yet he led Atkinson into the beginning for them of new church programs. In 1911 Miss Katie Smith (later Mrs. R. Y. Corbett) became the first W.M.U. president and Marshall Cobb became the first B.Y.P.U. President with 32 youth enrolled.

In 1911, the same year that the Atkinson tax District borrowed \$1200 to build a High School, (this was paid off in 1921) church members signed pledge cards for the first time. Church membership reached 133 in 1912--the year that Edward G. Bostic became Sunday School Superintendent. Bostic had come down from Beulaville and married Lorena Henry, daughter of Walsh Henry. He served as church clerk from 1914-1922 and again from 1929 to 1936.

Bostic was also a choir member and at one time song leader for the congregational



MR. AND MRS. E. G. BOSTIC

hymns. Mrs. Bostic was pianist for many years and one of the faithful in W.M.U. They added to the Body the gift of peace-making.

The year 1913 brought 44 new members to the church. Fourteen of these were by baptisms and 30 by letter totalling the largest gain of any one year and bringing the total up to 184 members by 1914. When the "week of protracted meetings" was held each fall, Atkinson High School students and teachers marched over and attended faithfully each morning at 11:00 A.M. Many of the students joined during this time. Later, all who accepted Christ were baptized, either in Black River or a millpond near Rooks," wrote Mrs. Erselle Corbett Tompson. She added that the crowd always sang, "Shall we gather at the River." The millpond was called the "Woodcock Mill Pond" after its owner Bob Woodcock. Location of the millpond today is on the creek back of Roland Horrell's and Maurice Kelly's farms.

Sunday School was on Sunday afternoon except on the third Sunday when the mini-

ster came and W.M.U. met faithfully on Monday afternoons once a month.

The church was growing economically as well as spiritually. In 1914, the pastor's salary was increased to \$150 for the year and total collections amounted to \$427.44.

The church participated in a layman's movement in 1915. When Donnie Benson, Archie E. Kelly and Mary Jane Walker attended the Association meeting at Long Creek in 1915 they doubtless agreed with other delegates who said that no young man should be ordained to preach the gospel who would not give up the tobacco habit. "The coco-cola habit is an evil of such proportions that a true follower of God should not partake of it," the temperance report concluded. (Temperance reports were discontinued in the 1920 associational minutes). The Benson's lived on a farm now owned by Mrs. Adrian Hawes.

Jewell Benson, Donnie's brother walked the 2 1/2 miles and brought home the Sunday School collection consisting mostly of pennies and nickles in a quart Kerr jar

during the years he served as Sunday School treasurer. His was a gift of cheerful service!

Other members of the family belonging to the Baptist Assembly were Winston and Summerfield Benson.

(Mrs. Mary Jane Walker was the mother of Mrs. Katie Woodcock.)

Archie Kelly lived on College Avenue in Atkinson next door to Jim Flynn. T. S. Teague, a High School princi-

pal, was instrumental in the continued growth of the church, serving as Sunday School Supt., and working closely with the pastors. Mrs. H. P. Bell Sr., Currie, was a sister of Teague.

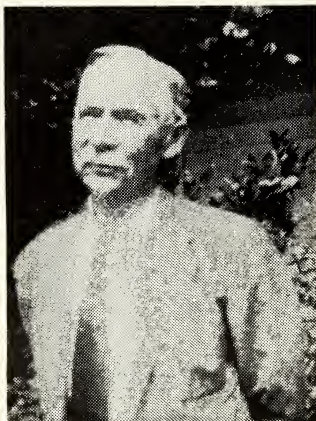
The Testaments

"Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled."

Luke 14:23.

The Roaring twenties dawned upon a booming Atkinson and a continually growing missionary Baptist Church, a church that while growing was serving the community. By 1921, the total membership had reached 210 and the year's love offerings reached the four digit figure of \$1,255. Pastor's salary was raised to \$300.

The families of W. C. Keith, H. E. Mills, A. D. Bordeaux, E. R. Thomas and J. H.



JIM HIGHSMITH

Highsmith were among those who joined the Body of Believers in the early twenties.

The W. C. Keith family lived where Miss Lena Lewis lives today. Keith was a brother of Mrs. Annie Faye Shaw and came from the Bethlehem Baptist Church.

J. H. Highsmith moved his membership from the Moore's Creek Church where he was a deacon. "Mr. Jim" served as a deacon in the Atkinson church until his death in 1932. A son George H. Highsmith was one of the first deacons ordained by the church.



EXILE LENNELL WESTON

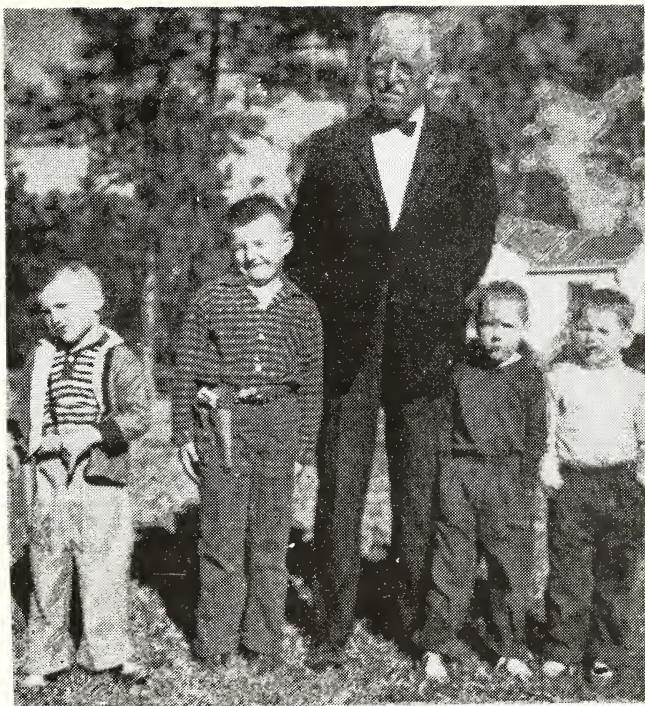
Rev. Exile Lennell Weston began his pastorate at the Atkinson church on November 1, 1918 and remained until March 1924. When Weston was called to preach, he had neither money nor education but managed to graduate from Wake Forest College and



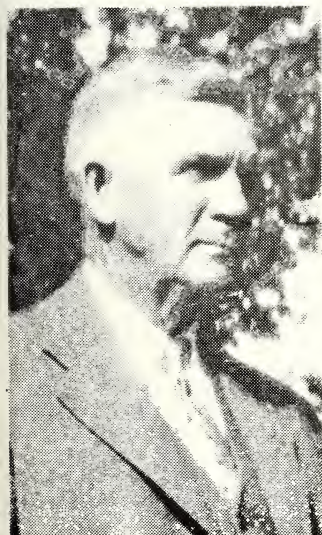
MR. AND MRS. G. H. HIGHSMITH

Southern Seminary.

Weston had ten children, a daughter Frances W. Register taught school in Atkinson until her recent retirement. Two sons Charles and William Albert became ministers. When the Weston's lived on "Negro Head Road," neighborhood boys who hunted nearby woodlands could hear the Good Reverend reciting his Sunday sermon from a stump. His was the Gift of Preparation.



CHILDREN LOVED HIM! Cecil Franklin, Richard Grayson, Frayser and Robert Simpson are pictured with Dr. G. C. Beard.



R. V. EAKINS SR.

Roscoe V. Eakins was Atkinson's first marshall and a Ford car dealer. His "Ford Place" was located on the lot in front of the John Horrell home today. This building was given to the church by Mary Eakins White, Roscoe's daughter. The building was sold by the church and removed.

Eakins who was baptized in the church has a son, John

David Eakins who is a deacon today. Two grandsons, Gene and Jimmy Eakins, also continue to share their gifts and talents in the church. Theirs is a gift of Caring.

Miss Lizzie Jones, a crippled polio victim and secretary to Penny Chevrolet in Atkinson was an early Junior Training Union leader. "She had such an impact on my life," said Betty Horrell. Miss Lizzie's was the gift of teaching!

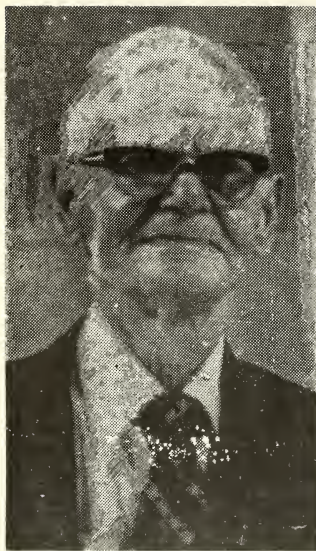
The year 1921 brought to Atkinson, Dr. Grover Cleveland Beard whose contributions to Atkinson Baptist Church were surpassed only by his contributions to the community. As a doctor he never refused to make a house call regardless of weather, bad roads, etc. It is said that Dr. Beard never mailed a bill. Those who were unable to pay, the crippled, the downcast, the poorest in the hardest times knew that they could call on Dr. Beard and that he would give them both physical treatment and spiritual encouragement.

One who knew Dr. Beard well said, "On the Board of church deacons, Dr. Beard was an administrator; in Sunday School, he was a teacher; on a committee, he was a peacemaker and on the building committee he was financial advisor. His donations were a challenge to the wealthiest and his kindness an inspiration to all who knew him."

His was the gift of a Compassionate heart!

Born October 12, 1887 at Cedar Creek, Cumberland County, Dr. Beard was the son of David A. and Katharine Thaggard Beard. He attended Buie's Creek Academy, a private school in Autryville, graduated from the University of North Carolina and received his medical degree from the University of Maryland in 1912.

While practicing at Har-



REV. L. L. JOHNSON

rell's Store he married Sallie R. Herring on July 2, 1918. They have two children, Sarah and David.

In Atkinson, Dr. Beard set up practice above the drug store owned at one time by Otto Wells and at another time by George Highsmith.

On February 24, 1961 after forty years of service in this community Dr. Beard suffered a stroke. He died five years later, February 1966.

Leonidas La Fayette Johnson was twice pastor of Atkinson Baptist. His first pastorate began on March 1, 1924 and closed November 30, 1928. On September 19, 1933 Brother Johnson returned as pastor and served until December 30, 1939.

Since that time he has continually been "called back" for Revivals, Homecomings, Dedications and especially for funerals. Recently, Johnson said, "I have helped to bury more persons than I can call by name today."

A Sampson County native, L.L. observed his 17th birthday by preaching his first sermon. On May 24, 1915, he married May Garner of Duplin County. They have eight

children.

The church has benefitted by the ministry of this pastor who brought joy to the hearts of those he visited, comfort to those in sorrow and a teaching ministry based solely on the Word of God.

Brother Johnson has also been called upon to perform numerous marriages since leaving the community. Many times a couple would buy licenses in Pender County and drive to Delway to be married.

"I would just bring them back to the 'Marriage Bush,'" he said.

The "marriage bush" was a sweet gum bush beside highway #421 just inside Pender County. More recently, Brother L. L. himself has remarried, having lost the first Mrs. Johnson by death. He is married to the former Mrs. Pearl Smith Rich.

His is the gift of Brotherly Love!

Lewis Huffman lived in the grove near the church. Having little money in the 1920's, Huffman wanted to give of his time to the church. Each Sunday when others arrived they found a warm fire in the wood stove because Huffman's contribution was one of sacrificial service!

Additions to the church during the 1920's included the families of Huffman Bloodworth, Haywood Kelly, W. R. Lewis, S. L. Moore, and Murchison Downing.

Blessed with a sense of humor, Huffman Bloodworth moved from the Centerville Baptist Church at Kelly to become a part of the Atkinson church. He had married Mae Johnson of Rankin (formerly Colvin's Creek). Two of their eight children, Morris and Gordan, with their families are active today.

Haywood Kelly moved his membership from Point Caswell. The father of Troy Kelly, "Mr. Haywood's" contributions have included financial aid and working diligently toward a new sanctuary.

His was the Gift of Admini-



HAYWOOD KELLY

stration.

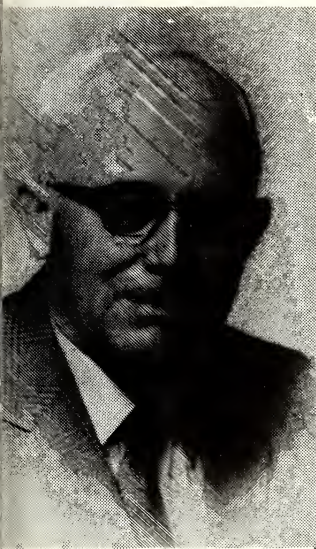
W. R. Lewis with his family came to the church and community in 1924. Mrs. Lewis, fondly called "Miss Fanny", is still a member.

From the year 1925 until his health failed in the late 1950's, Atkinson residents knew that Sunday morning had dawned when they saw Leslie Moore with his children on their way to Sunday School and church. Moore had been a deacon at "Caintuck Chapel" and had brought his church affiliation to Atkinson. He taught a morning Sunday School class at the Atkinson Baptist Church and often taught the same lesson at the Free Will Holiness church that afternoon.

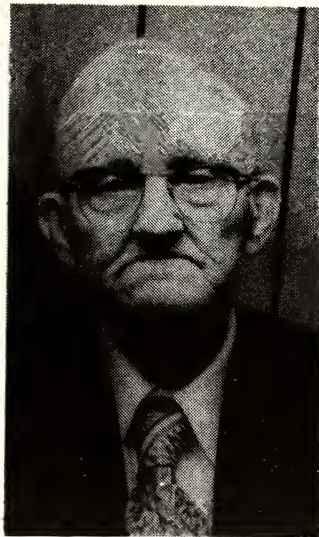
It was very seldom that Moore's pick-up truck slowed to a stop without some hitch - hiker dismounting. Anyone wishing a ride would wait beside the road for Moore who always came by and always stopped to give a lift. He added to the body a Gift of True Humility!

Christine Moore, a deacon at Haw Bluff Baptist Church moved his church affiliation to Atkinson during the 1930 and remained until his death.

The Downings moved their memberships from the Centerville church in 1927. A son of Murchison Downing, Her-



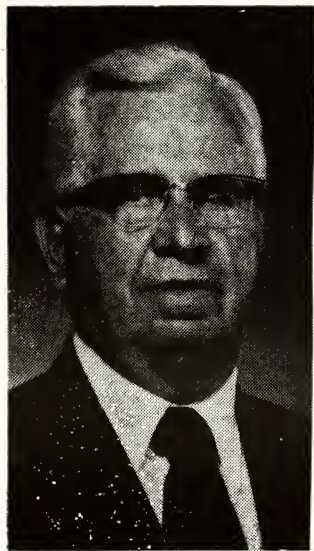
HERMAN DOWNING



AARON KELLY

First-Citizens Bank, Jacksonville, which assists ministers in preparing for the ministry.

A daughter of Siler, Alma Studdert lives in Kelly today.



DR. W. D. MORRIS

man was ordained a deacon in October 1956. A son of Herman Downing, Donald, remains in the Assembly.

Another son of Murchison Downing, Dalton, has served as Training Union Director and on Finance Committees. Their gifts to the Body have been that of Patience!

The year 1927 marked this church's first contribution to the Co-operative Program. The amount was \$200.

Pastor's salary had increased from \$300 in 1924 to \$950 in 1927.

Shelton Corbett, baby son of H. C. Corbett was BYPU President that year and Mrs. W. T. Flynn was W. M. U. president.

The Aaron Kelly family joined the Atkinson church in 1935. Kelly had been a member at the Haw Bluff church where he served as deacon. "Mr. Aaron" was made honorary lifetime deacon on September 5, 1976. At the age of 92, he is still attending services and is an inspiration to younger members, supporting their efforts financially and spiritually. His gift is one of stewardship.

Reverend Tasso Wirt Siler pastored the church in 1929



REV. T. W. SILER

and 1930. He attended Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia and on September 18, 1901 married Miss Mary Vallie Phillips a childhood sweetheart. His active pastorate extended over 47 years.

After retirement, Siler was called to pastor Blue Creek Mission. His grandchildren have a memorial at

Dr. W. D. Morris of Ingold was called to be the pastor in 1931. Dr. Morris found that the church was not escaping the depression. The pastor's salary had decreased to \$400. Total collections in 1932 were \$553 compared with \$1500 just four years earlier. But the new minister also found Dr. G. C. Beard, faithfully serving as Sunday School Superintendent; he found Mrs. R. Y. Corbett continuing as W.M.S. president with meager funds; he found R. V. Eakins a conscientious church treasurer and E. G. Bostic a faithful clerk. The church was not only hard hit financially, this same year it lost five of its most faithful members by death: Mesdames C.A. Barnhill, J. H. Highsmith, J. D. Lewis, W. C. Keith and Mr. T.H. Woodcock.

In spite of hard times, spiritual growth continued



**MRS. MYRTLE HORRELL
CHESTNUT**

for members such as Mrs. Myrtle Chestnut constantly used their gifts. Mrs. Chestnut taught in the Sunday School as well as being church treasurer for many years. A daughter of Mack Horrell, hers was a gift of teaching.

A graduate of Wake Forest College and Southern Seminary, Dr. W. D. Morris was pastor of the church in 1930-31. Morris who pastored Temple Baptist in Wilmington for twelve years missed only one Sunday in the pulpit during the first four years after his retirement.

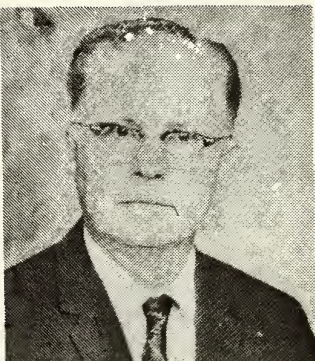
From September 1933 until December 30, 1939, L. L. Johnson was again the church's pastor. It was during this time that F. R. Lennon became High School principal. Lennon was loved both by the church and his students. He died while active in both.

Rudolph Horrell began serving as church clerk in 1939 and portrayed the gift of caring both as clerk and as choir member until his death on October 1, 1969. Teenagers who joined the adult choir were heard to remark, "Mr. Rudolph cares about our feelings." His was the gift of Caring!

Elijah Wrightman Pate found a church enrollment of 199 when he accepted the pastorate in 1940. Pate was pastor of Mount Holly, Shiloh, Willard, Centerville and Calvary during his 37 years in



RUDOLPH HORRELL



REV. E. P. PATE

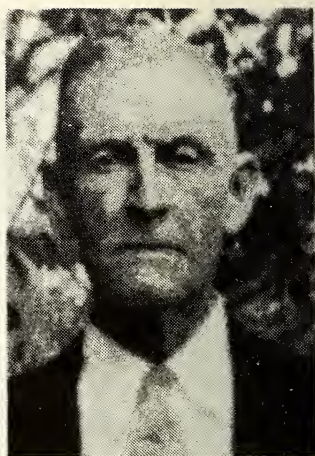
the ministry. He retired after six years with the First Baptist Church, Wilmington and returned to Locust, S. C. Pate died January 13, 1975.

In 1941 Pate baptized twelve and saw the church enrollment reach 214.

John Sylvester Pope, born July 1, 1875, came to the church from the Moore's Creek Baptist bringing his deaconship with him, around 1944. "Mr. Johnny" is remembered by many for having continued as teacher of the Men's Bible Class after becoming blind, Mrs. Pope reading the lesson to him.

This writer remembers him as the man who called a special prayer meeting (The church being without a pastor) when her two year old son had been unconscious for thirty days.

Johnny Pope faced the March wind at 2 o'clock A.M. to return from the new church sanctuary to his home. Simultaneously, a nurse at Babies Hospital, Wrights-



J. S. POPE

ville Beach, paged Dr. Sidney. She held in her arms, she believed a dying child. But before the good doctor reached the second floor room, Clyde Corbett opened his eyes and recognized his mother for the first time in a month. When the nurse apologized for awakening the doctor, the renowned Pediatrician said, "The greatest reward of my profession is being called to witness another of God's miracles."

Mr. Johnny added to the church the Gift of Prayer.



**MR. AND MRS. DURWOOD
BOSTIC**

Durwood Bostic was a deacon, teacher and Training Union Director. A son of E. G. Bostic, he is pictured with his wife Margaret.

Durwood died on December 5, 1971.

The Acts

"Then answered I them, and said unto them, The God of Heaven, He will prosper us; therefore we his servants will arise and build:"

Nehemiah 2:20.

During the years from 1940 to 1975, the church launched an extensive building program, building a new sanctuary, a parsonage and an Educational Building. At present the church is debt free.

"How are you this very day in the community in which we live?" Church members who remember Rev. T. K. Woody fondly remember him for the above greetings.

Woody pastored the field of churches, Atkinson, Shiloh and Moore's Creek in 1944-45 and '46. It was under his leadership that plans were made for building a new church.

Woody's salary from Atkinson was \$697.88 annually.

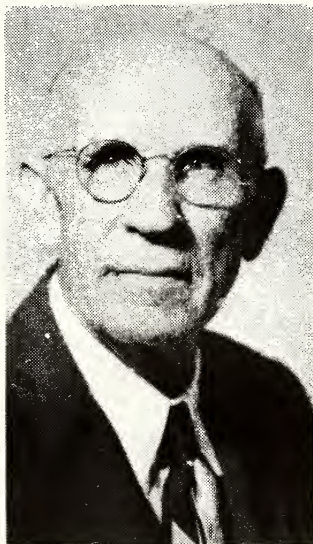
World War II brought sadness to the church families with practically every home sending their sons to war. It was the unpleasant duty of Depot agent John David Eakins to deliver telegrams bearing the death messages to the families of J. B. Hamilton Jr., and Linwood Corbett.

J. B. was the son of J. B. Hamilton Sr. Another son of the Hamilton family, Carroll was ordained deacon in the 1950's.

Linwood was a son of Norwood C. Corbett, one of four brothers on active duty at the time.

The building committee for the new church building appointed in 1946 were J. M. Register, Dr. G. C. Beard, W. H. Kelly, Sr., and Norwood C. Corbett (all are deceased).

Jim Register who had moved his membership from Moore's Creek was a deacon. Although the church was



JIM REGISTER

without a pastor in 1947, these four men led the church in building a new sanctuary.

Register has two grandsons, Jimmy and Gene Eakins and a daughter-in-law Dorothy who are active today.

Called a man of faithfulness and humility, George White had been ordained in the Calvary Baptist Church, Wilmington. He and his wife who was a practical nurse accepted the call to pastor the church in 1948 and remained until 1952. Rev. and Mrs. White were killed in an accident on March 23, 1977. They were living in Wilmington at that time.

Miss Alice Cook came to Atkinson in 1936 as a school teacher. She married Otto Wells, one of the eligible bachelors in the town. Alice has



REV. AND MRS. GEORGE WHITE

served on numerous nominating committees, has been church treasurer and was on two building committees, the Parsonage and the Educational building.

Hers is the gift of decision-making.

John David Eakins had married Miss Neal Graham of Roseboro who became treasurer of the church in 1943. With a talent of Song, Neal was to organize a youth choir which proved a blessing to the church as well as to the youth who participated. She continues to teach in Sunday School, having been active in this capacity for almost thirty years. Hers is the Gift of Organization.

When Rev. E. P. Hart arrived in Atkinson, June 2, 1953, he was the first pastor to live in a house owned by the



REV. AND MRS. E. P. HART

church. A house on Linden Avenue had been bought from Floyd Woodcock to be used as a parsonage. Previously the church had rented the home now owned by Wilbur Woodcock.

A student at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, Ernest Hart was away most of the week leaving his young wife Helen at home. "She was one of the warmest-hearted people I have ever known," said Neal Eakins, "and such a good sport."

It was a cold January night in 1954 when Neal carried her Sunday School class out to the home of Lessie Barnhill. During the course of the evening, Lessie mentioned it was "collard stealing night." Lessie and daughter Joyce Ann, began slipping into dungarees while several members were so emphatically saying they were not going. "Now, Lessie's Aunt Katie Woodcock would have given us all a collard," Neal recalls, "but we wanted to steal them."

Giving her son Kenneth instructions to keep the fire going, Lessie explained, "We're going collard stealing."

The entire group crowded

in Neal's six cylinder Studebaker. Lucille Woodcock, Ruby Barnhill, Inez Horrell and Edith Woodcock were in the car while Helen Hart, Lessie, Joyce Ann and Maude Harrell crawled into the truck.

No sooner had they left the premises than Kenneth grabbed his boots and gun, ran through the field to Aunt Katie's and informed his cousin Frank Russ that the collard stealers were coming."

When the loaded Studebaker rolled down the dirt road to the collard patch, Kenneth and Frank were on top of the barn with a shot gun. They waited until the ladies were all scattered out and fired the gun into the air. It was a pretty frightened Sunday School class who left collards on the ground, scampered back into the car. . . . Afraid there might be a firecracker in the car, Neal gave the car all the power it had.

Determined to steal a collard, the group let Lessie out behind Maurice Kelly's store where there was another patch. By the time the car was turned around Lessie came running back, "the dog got so near to me, his breath smelled bad," she said.

The story was never published but in the words of Carroll Hamilton, headlines could have been, "Sunday School teacher, Deacon's wife and Pastor's wife shot while stealing collards."

Prior to 1953, only two deacons, George Highsmith and Matt Peterson had been ordained by the church.

It was during Hart's pastorate that five new deacons, A. H. Pridgen, M. F. Kelly, John David Eakins, Jeff Horrell and Marshall Woodcock were elected and ordained.

Maurice Kelly is a nephew of Aaron and Haywood Kelly. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Kelly were affiliated with the Point Caswell church.



MARSHALL WOODCOCK

Marshall Woodcock was a descendent of Jackie Woodcock.

Before Rev. Hart resigned on August 8, 1954, a new church budget had also been established.

J. S. Pope introduced a motion that the church call a full-time pastor. Seconded by Jeff Horrell this motion was approved by the church and pastor's salary was set at \$3,000 per year.

A budget committee consisting of J. D. Eakins, Mrs. Carl Henry, Mrs. Roland Horrell and Dalton Downing introduced a weekly budget of \$146.95.

Rev. George E. Reynolds who came to lead the Atkinson flock in March of 1955 writes, "In January 1955 strange men from the Southeast were seen in the congregation of the Mount Harmony Baptist church (Beulah Association). They were Troy Kelly, Durwood Bostic and Otto Wells. Reynolds said that the two years and five months at Atkinson was a joy for the family. He recalls when Hurricanes Connie and Dianne passed by and many spent the entire night in the church basement. On Easter 1957, he held an



REV. AND MRS. GEORGE REYNOLDS, CHARLES AND MARY CATHERINE.

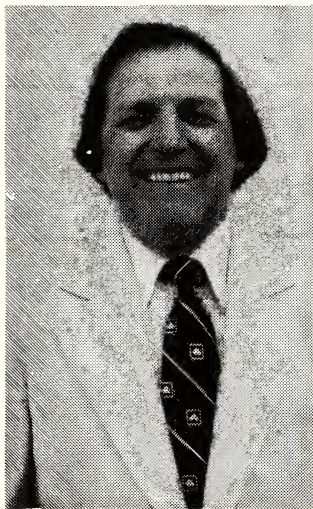
Easter Sunrise Service in Moore's Creek Park and heard a ranger announce that this was the first time ever that there was an Easter Sunrise Service in every national park in the nation.

George Reynolds was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, October 2, 1920. He felt a call to the ministry at age 17 and preached his first sermon in June, 1939. George met Minnie, a student at Carver School, while he was at Southern Seminary. Minnie taught school later.

The Reynolds children are Mark K., Charles and Jeanne. Charles who was their baby in Atkinson preached the student led worship service at Earlysville, Virginia this year. Charles has been appointed as a Missionary Journeyman to Salzburg, Austria. He graduates from the University of Richmond in May. His mother wrote, "Charles's training began in the Atkinson Sunday School." George completed his schooling at Southeastern seminary graduating in the first class, 1954.

As the first full time

pastor, Reynolds instigated a rotating Deacon system. Under his pastorate young people attended the Caswell Assembly in large groups. Reynolds offered his resignation to be effective August 7, 1957 and went to the Bethlehem-Enon church field near Richmond, Virginia.



REV. FRED CULLER

Rev. Fred Culler, a High Point native came to pastor the church in January 1958. He was attending Southeastern Seminary at the time and graduated while here. Under his leadership the deacons recommended a six point record system for Sunday School and an eight point record system for Training Union. Culler, his wife Margie and children Marc and Gordon left the church May 15, 1960.

Since that time, Culler pastored Stedman Baptist Church, Stedman and Seagate Baptist Church Wilmington.

Presently, he is a State Farm agent in Jamestown. North Carolina and has served as interim pastor for several churches in the area.

Rev. Culler returned as a guest speaker on January 6, 1963 when the new parsonage was debt free.

A new pastor's home was begun in December 1957.

The parsonage building committee was A. H. Pridgen, Roland Horrell, Mrs. Otto Wells and Mrs. Carroll Hamilton.

From September 23, 1960 until December 31, 1975, the Rev. W. L. Blanton was pastor. This was the longest pastorate in the history of the church.

Blanton who came from Apex Baptist brought with him a wife, Betty, a school teacher who loved children and two children Larry and Rose.

Larry married Deacon Carroll Hamilton's daughter Janet.

It was Blanton who in a letter to the people wrote, "Since we so badly need an adequate Sunday School Building and are able. . ." The end result was an educational building.

A building Committee consisting of Steve Bulter, chairman; A. H. Pridgen, Norris C. Corbett, Jimmy Eakins, Mrs. Otto Wells, Mrs. Eswood Malpass and Mrs. Marian Harrell was



REV. LAWRENCE BLANTON

appointed.

Because of time and work donated, an educational building valued at \$55,000 was built for \$35,000.

Ground - breaking ceremonies for the educational building were held on February 8, 1970.

The Enoch Johnson family had been in the church since 1935. Le Roy Johnson was ordained deacon in October 27, 1967.

The Gift of Congeniality has characterized this family for three generations.

Herman Downing and Marion Kuydendal were ordained as deacons on December 30, 1956.

Stanley Horrell was ordained as deacon in the early 1960's. Stanley's family had joined the assembly in the late 1940's. His mother, Mrs. Willie Horrell and brother John Horrell are still in the community and church.

"We looked for a church with Christian Education advantages," said Wiley Green about choosing the Atkinson church when his family moved from Clarkton in 1958.

Green, presently chairman of the Board of Deacons, with his wife Jewell and three children brought to the church the Gift of Jov. For

them no trial is too great nor burden too heavy to wipe the smiles from their faces.

A son Milton was ordained deacon on October 11, 1970.

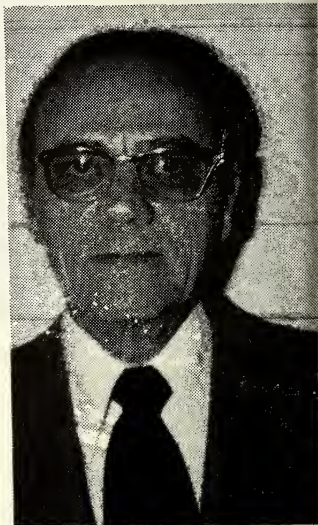
R. J. Corbett was ordained a deacon on October 16, 1960. R. J. married Edna Keith Shaw, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Colon Shaw. The Corbett family moved their membership from the Centerville Baptist Church, Kelly. R. J. will be remembered for the organization of a young married people's class which presently has more than thirty members.

Eugene Floyd was ordained as deacon on October 1, 1961. Eugene came over from Columbus County and married Sophia Floyd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Kelly. Both Gene and Sophia have served as Director of Training Union. She has been treasurer and is presently church clerk.

Regardless of the task at hand Sophia and Gene can be called upon. Theirs is the gift of dependability.

Once again the church was saddened on December 17, 1964, when Eswood Malpass was killed in an automobile accident. Malpass and his wife Alice had been Christmas shopping when the accident occurred. Eswood and his family moved their membership from Shiloh Baptist

church where he served as deacon in October, 1943. Alice has served as church treasurer, W.M.U. president and in other capacities since that time. Their gift has included that of encouraging others in church related activities.



CARROLL HAMILTON

His was the Gift of Leadership

Other deacons who were elected and ordained during Blanton's pastorate include Marian Harrell who was ordained October 28, 1962 and Norris Clifton Corbett ordained November 7, 1971.



MR. AND MRS. ESWOOD MALPASS

Although the building program had been successful and mortgage is paid in full, the church has decreased in membership for the past two decades.

Mrs. Henrietta Croom Turner has been Sunday School secretary for the past thirty years. Her son Jack is now superintendent.

On December 31, 1975, Rev. W. L. Blanton retired. He is now living in Burgaw and is supplying in neighboring churches. Blanton is a graduate of Carson's Newman College and Southern Seminary.

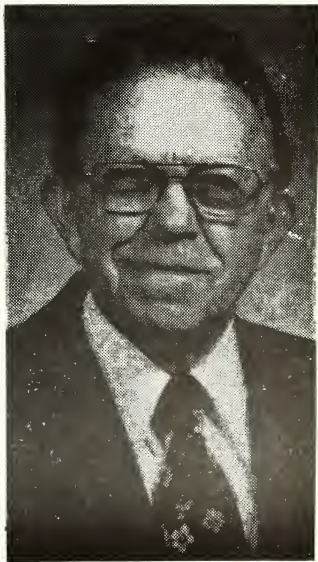
Shortly after Blanton's retirement, Rev. L. D. Munn was called as Interim pastor. A native of South Carolina,

Munn is a graduate of Wake Forest College, received a masters in English at U.N.C. and graduated from Southern Seminary.

He retired in 1969 and has lived in Wallace since that time. While Munn has numerous responsibilities within the Southern Baptist Convention including being board member, College Trustee Chairman and Historical committee, his gift to the church at Atkinson was one of Wisdom. "He taught us to love one another as we had never before," said a member.

More recent additions have been the families of Paul Wells who came from the

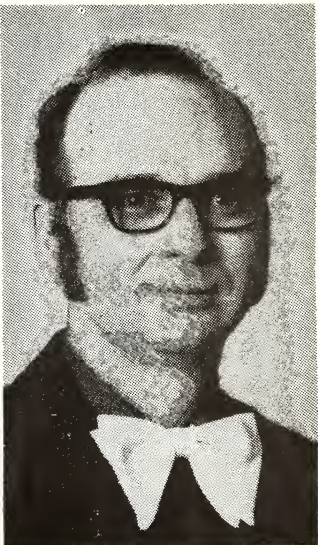
Shiloh Baptist and the Yates Colvins who moved their membership from the Haw Bluff Church.



REV. L. D. MUNN

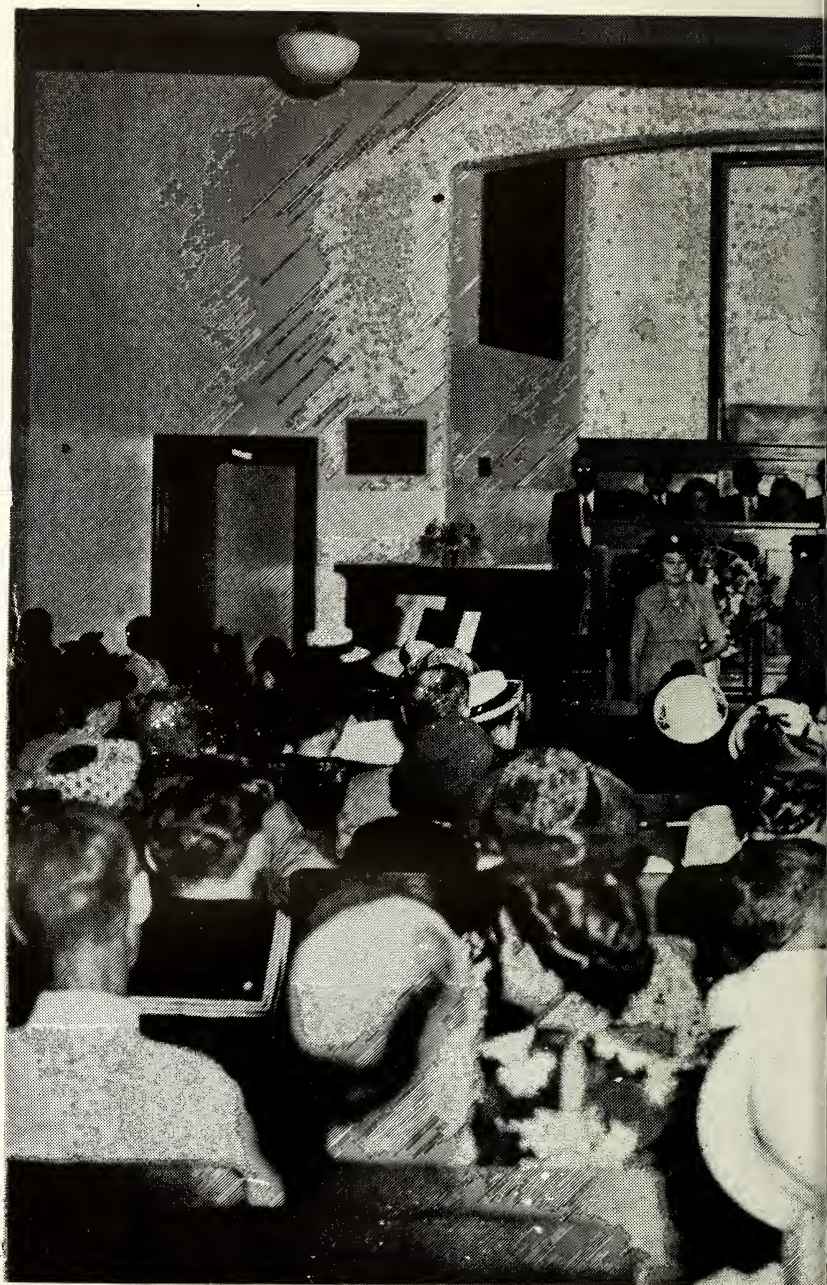


GROUND BREAKING CEREMONIES for the Educational Building were held February 15, 1970. Pictured are: Dr. Nathan Brooks, Director of Church programing, Baptist State Convention; Le Roy Johnson, Chairman of the trustees; Rev. W. L. Blanton, pastor and Steve Butler, chairman of the building committee and contractor for the work.



REV. OTTIS KING

Rev. Otis King with his wife Nancy and two sons Eddie and Kevin arrived on



ON SUNDAY MAY 29, 1949, the new church was dedicated. Rev. George Woodcock gave the dedication sermon. Rev. George Woodcock, W. H. Lewis and Jeff



was dedicated. Brother L. L. Johnson
 s pastor. Standing in front were Mrs.
 r members.

March 15, 1977. A native of Onslow County, King graduated from Southeastern Seminary. He was ordained by the Bethany Baptist Church, Richlands.

His first week in town, King was called the "picture-taking" preacher. The second

week he was called, "a visiting pastor." After one month the church is anticipating a bright future under his leadership!

Our founders and our forefathers have stood in the gap, endured hardships, and laid the foundation. Their gifts

have been numerous, their faith has stood the trials. Ours is the job preserving our Christian Heritage, of continuing God's work in our church and community and spreading the Good News that we serve a Living Saviour!

DORA LUDLAM CORBETT

A Word from Our Pastor

"Where there is no vision, the people perish:"

Proverbs 29:18.

The writer of Proverbs spoke with much wisdom as he looked through the eyes of faith and realized people must live.

Those who perceive the needs of others must live to fulfill the goals and ambitions placed before them. The ones to be reached must live--though at times dependent on others.

Some things will continue--life, death, time, sharing.

Some things will be renewed--hope, love, memories, compassion, cooperation.

Some things will grow--service, commitment, brotherhood, ideas, strength.

From the days of college life, many young people have expressed their faith as they wrote in the year books of their friends, "I know not what the future holds, but I know Who holds the future."

As we continue the life of service and dedication which others began, we realize that now we "stand in the gap." One reason we know Who holds the future is that we have seen through the eyes of faith the working power of our God as we walked through life. The experiences of faith call us to continue in our life of faith and realize what we become by a life totally committed to God's will and leadership.

The opportunities are many. Availing ourselves of each opportunity to serve Christ will help in our sojourn upon earth. With eyes to the future may we pray, depend on God, and work for His Glory:

lives surrendered to Christ

Christians serving Christ

expanded proclamation of the Gospel

ministering to the needs of humanity in the Name of Christ

fellowship and joy in the Spirit

tightening the tie that binds in love

The fields are indeed "white unto harvest" and we can realize the fulfillment of our goals and desires as the people of God.

Three selections of Holy Scripture speak the desires of our hearts and convey our hopes for the future:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. (Matthew 6:33)

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28)

Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Reverend Otis King

Ruth

Early Weddings

... "For whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God."

Ruth 1:16.

Batson-Cobb

Wearing a "shoe-top" length dress, Miss Ola Cobb was married to Edgar T. Batson, Sr., on June 29, 1916 in the Atkinson Baptist Church.

The Rev. E. L. Weston, pastor of Burgaw Baptist church performed the afternoon ceremony.

Miss Mattie Smith was maid of honor and Tom Smith was usher.

Little Miss Carrie Lewis was flower girl.



Thompson-Corbett

Most of the church members were married in their homes on Sunday afternoons when the pastor came to preach or by a Justice of the Peace.

Miss Ercelle Corbett wanted to have a church wedding although she had never seen one. Neither had her dear friend Bessie Alderman who found a book with instructions and planned the occasion to be held on September 30, 1919, Atkinson Baptist Church.

Miss Corbett's intended husband, Herman Thompson of Hampstead, was working in Washington, D. C.

The church was decorated by the Woman's Missionary Society who used ferns from their homes, long leaf pines from nearby forests. Smil-

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Smith of Atkinson announce the marriage of their daughter Mattie to Dallas Johnson, Raleigh.

The Rev. E. L. Weston performed the ceremony in June, 1920 in the Atkinson Baptist Church.

xoimes and goldenrod. A section of the church was reserved for the W.M.S.

Each bridesmaid wore a lovely dress a different color of the rainbow with corsages from a florist.

The bride, however, was persuaded by her mother, Mrs. Alice Corbett, to wear a practical wool suit.

Given in marriage by her father, Henry Clifton Corbett, the bride carried a bouquet of white roses.

Rev. Lacy O. Corbett,

brother of the bride, who performed the ceremony waited while some friends helped the groom and the best man through the window as there was no outside door in that end of the church.

Bridesmaids were: Misses Lila Corbett (Peterson), (maid of honor); Bessie Alderman, Winnie Smith (Figg), Mattie Smith (Johnson) and Ruby Larkins (Hawkins).

The newly weds left on the 6 P.M. train and spent the night at Orton Hotel in Wilmington.



Mrs. A. R. Hilburn
requests the honor of your presence
at the
marriage of her daughter

Alice Iona

to

Mr. Samuel Leslie Moore

Sunday, the eighth day of March
nineteen hundred and fourteen
at two-thirty o'clock
at her residence

Currie, North Carolina



MR. AND MRS. JAMES BROWN

Mrs. A. R. Hilburn announces the marriage of her daughter Alice Iona to Mr. Samuel Leslie Moore on Sunday, March 8, 1914 at 2:30 o'clock P.M.

The Reverend E. L. Weston performed the ceremony at the home of the bride in Currie, N.C.

(The Moore's were parents of Reuben L. Moore,
Publisher of THE PENDER POST.)

The last wedding in the church as of May 15, 1977 was that of Mrs. Lessie Barnhill and James Brown of Burgaw.

Lessie Butler Barnhill, a life long member of the church was 63 when she and Brown were married on Sunday, May 15, 1977, a second marriage for both.

Rev. L. L. Johnson performed the ceremony with Rev. Otis King assisting.

The wedding took place after the morning church service with Kenneth Barnhill, son of the bride, giving her in marriage.

Psalms

Church Music

"O Sing unto the Lord a new song. Sing unto All the earth. . . ." Psalm 96



THE CHURCH CHOIR, 1977! Left to right are: Julie Humphrey Horrell, Nancy King, Sandra Smith Green, Sadie Horrell Henry, Sophia Kelly Floyd, Lessie Butler Barnhill, Kelly Marie Floyd, Virginia Barnhill, Eugene Floyd, Dorothy Register, Cindy Henry, Mavis Kelly, Carlton Henry, Rachel Smith and Jeff Horrell.

Mrs. Florence Virginia Glisson moved from Bethlehem Baptist Church to Atkinson in 1920. Mrs. Glisson reared a grand-daughter, Hazel Glisson who married

Jeff Horrell and has been church musician for the past thirty-six years. Pastors and visiting ministers have commented that the Atkinson church music was "Spirit-

led" under Mrs. Horrell's leadership. While Mrs. Horrell does not have a church music degree, she has kept abreast with the times, and has taken advantage of oppor-

tunities whenever possible.

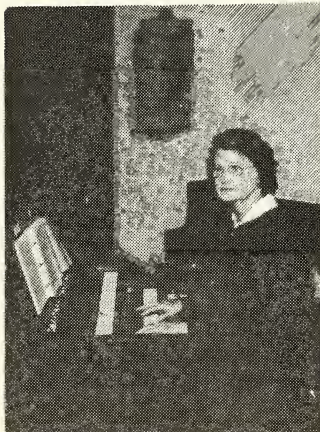
She has taken courses in Church music, Choir Directing, Music Appreciation and Pipe Organ. She has never stopped trying to learn and has made every effort to present needed church music, always on a spirit-led basis.

Assisting with the church music from 1948-1976 was Mrs. Dorothy Cobb, a capable musician from New Jersey who married John Gray Cobb during World War II.

Students who assisted Mrs. Horrell during the years she has served as musician were: Gwendolyn Horne (Rogers), Eleanor White (Horrell), Marcia Horrell (Scaggs), Sara Wells Batts, Daphne Corbett (McBride), Susan Eakins (Whitfield), Richard Woodcock and Mrs. Nancy King.

In the early days of the church, Miss Mattie Smith was pianist. Later the Lewis girls, Clyde and Carrie played. In the late 20's Mrs. Billy Nunalee was pianist, as was Mrs. Claude Keith in the 1930's. Mrs. E. G. Bostic accompanied for worship prior to Mrs. Horrell.

These have given of their talents and their talents have increased.



MRS JEFF HORRELL, church organist. The organ was installed on December 14, 1949 for the price of \$2257.00.

The Epistles

Our Church Library

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Proverbs 4:7

Our church library was the brainchild of the Rev. Mr. George Reynolds, a pastor of the church from 1955 to 1957.

Rev. Reynolds, a great lover of books, and always with an eye on the future of students young and old, persuaded a beloved school teacher, Miss Bessie Alderman, to take charge and inaugurate a church library, which blossomed under the enthusiastic endeavors of Miss Bessie for the next several years.

Friends and acquaintances of Miss Bessie's will remember long those times she placed a gem of a book in their hands and they read it. Or, the times she gently goaded them into remembering the library with a memorial-gift book; or simply suggested that the library could use some help--like the time Charlie Larkins gave the library one hundred dollars--or the time Dr. Marion Keith gave fifty dollars, for books which continue to bless those who seek out the volumes and read them.

Miss Bessie gave much praise and credit to a loyal assistant, Mrs. Sophia Kelly Floyd, a younger school teacher, who did the type-writing tirelessly, and helped Miss Bessie at every beck and call. Also, Miss Bessie remembers with gratitude the encouragement and support of another church pastor Mr. Fred Culler.

In June, 1970, Miss Bessie with a few well devised persuasions, gained another assistant. Mrs. Mary Frances



MISS BESSIE ALDERMAN

Pridgen would now write the notes of acknowledgement, of thanks to donors, and/or notes to families of those honored or memorialized in any way.

A few years later, when Miss Bessie retired from public life, Sophia and Kelly Floyd and Mary Frances Pridgen together continued the work of the library.

At present, the emphasis has shifted somewhat more to the audio-visual aspects of library work, in keeping with the Media Center concept. The library now owns a typewriter; a filmstrip projector; a 16 mm projector; a rolling wired projection table; and an impressive four-drawer legal-size vertical file. The file was a gift to the library through the efforts of N. C. (Ben) Corbett, and was a hap-

py addition to the carpeted modest first-floor room under the sanctuary which houses all the books and materials and equipment.

Of all the library properties, the most valued perhaps is the Reference Library so beautifully collected and shelved by Miss Bessie Al-

derman over the years. These make a fitting memorial to her happy well-ordered life and her contribution will be remembered through time immemorial.

Our Missionaries

"And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, 'How Beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of Peace and Bring Glad Tidings of Good things.'

Romans 10:15

In 1907 Mrs. J. D. Lewis became the first W.M.U. President of Atkinson Baptist church. Since that time an annual report has been filed with the association every year except in 1970 when no meetings were held for the last six months of that year.

The missionary Society has been continuous although it has fluctuated from a membership of 38 in 1911 to a low in attendance of three faithful members.

In 1911 offering were: State Missions \$1.09; Home Missions 72 cents and Foreign missions 29 cents. Contributions have steadily increased

since that time until the Lottie Moon offering in 1976 was near \$1500.

Miss Katie Smith (Corbett) was Sunbeam leader and president of the Young ladies Missionary Society in 1911. Except for a few years when she taught school away from Atkinson, "Miss Katie" has been active in the W.M.U. work since that time. She served as president from 1929-1935; 1943-44. "When it looked as if we'd give up, 'Miss Katie would step in and keep the organization alive," said another faithful member. From a look at the early minutes, one concludes that when Miss Katie was not president of this organization, she was secretary.

Hers was the Gift of Commitment!

Through the depression years, records show that Miss Eunice Parker, a school teacher was instrumental in keeping the organization functioning. Even in summer months, a donation of \$1.00 was sent by Miss Parker each month.

Roderick Horrell remembers Miss Parker as a heavy set lady with cold black hair who wore glasses. She taught in the Elementary School. In October 1936, the State Mission offering amounted to \$2.00 including the \$1.00 which Miss Parker donated.

Names constantly on the programs in the thirties in-



MRS. ANNIE FAYE KEITH SHAW

cluded Mrs. G. C. Beard, Mrs. F. R. Lennon, Mrs. Myrtle Chestnut, Miss Caroline Larkins, Mrs. Durwood White, Mrs. E. G. Bostic and Mrs. Fanny Henry.

An asset to the work of the church and especially to the W.M.S. was Mrs. Annie Faye Shaw Keith. Mrs. Shaw, the wife of Dr. Colon Shaw moved her membership from the Bethlehem church around 1920. "She always found the good in everyone and never hesitated to pass on a sincere compliment," a friend said of Mrs. Shaw. Hers was a gift of Kindness.

Because of her faithfulness, a circle was named, "The Lorena Bostic" circle after her death on November



MRS. R. Y. CORBETT

21, 1962.

Study courses have been a Hi-light of W.M.U. since the early 1930's when Mrs. R. V. Eakins "kindly consented to teach the book during the week of prayer." (This same phrase referring to Mrs. Eakins was found in the minute book three times).

By the end of 1937 with an improved economy the W.M.U. collections amounted to \$102.06.

In 1970 when there was no W. M. U. meeting, it was Lessie Barnhill, possibly the most mission-minded person in the church, who accepted the leadership of the revived organization. Lessie has prepared herself by attending Ridgecrest assembly from 1970-74. She also attended the North American W. M. U. Baptist Convention in Toronto, Canada in 1973.

Lessie Butler Barnhill had joined the church at thirteen years of age, began teaching in Sunday School as a young married lady and has been active in all phases of church work since that time. Hers is the Gift of Telling the Good News of the Gospel!

W.M.U. Presidents

1907 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1908 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1909 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1910 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1911 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1912 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1913 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1914 Mrs. R. C. Lewis
1915 Mrs. D. J. Lewis
1916 Mrs. D. J. Lewis
1917 Mrs. R. C. Lewis
1918 Mrs. R. C. Lewis
1919 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1920 Mrs. J. D. Lewis
1921 Mrs. H. Q. Thompson
1922 Mrs. E. G. Bostic
1923 Mrs. E. G. Bostic
1924 Mrs. E. L. Weston
1925 Mrs. W. T. Flynn
1926 Mrs. W. T. Flynn
1927 Mrs. W. T. Flynn

1928 Mrs. W. T. Flynn
1929 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1930 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1931 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1932 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1933 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1934 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1935 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1936 Mrs. G. C. Beard
1937 Mrs. G. C. Beard
1938 Mrs. R. V. Eakins
1939 Mrs. Colin Shaw
1940 Mrs. Matt Peterson
1941 Mrs. Fanny Henry
1942 Mrs. E. G. Bostic
1943 Mrs. R. Y. Corbett
1944 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1945 Mrs. T. K. Woody
1946 Mrs. T. K. Woody
1947 Mrs. Colon Shaw
1948 Mrs. Colon Shaw
1949 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1950 Mrs. A. H. Pridgen
1951 Mrs. A. H. Pridgen
1952 Mrs. Norris Corbett

1953 Mrs. Norris Corbett
1954 Mrs. Roland Horrell
1955 Mrs. Roland Horrell
1956 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1957 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1958 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1959 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1960 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1961 Mrs. Wiley Green
1962 Mrs. Roland Horrell
1963 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1964 Mrs. Carroll Hamilton
1965 Mrs. Eswood Malpass
1966 Mrs. Cletus Pridgen
1967 Mrs. Paul Wells
1968 Mrs. Wiley Green
1969 Mrs. Paul Wells
1970 no record
1971 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1972 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1973 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1974 Mrs. Vance Barnhill
1975 Mrs. Eugene Floyd
1976 Mrs. Eugene Floyd
1977 Mrs. Vance Barnhill

Timothy

Full Time Christian Service

"They fasted and prayed, placed their hands on them and sent them off."

Acts 13:3.

James Butler One Who Served

It was a family affair the day James Henry Butler was baptized. Mother, father, grandmother, Aunt Katie, sisters and cousins got on the wagon filled with chairs for the adults and a quilt for the children. The journey to Black River was a happy one although the mule pulled his burden slowly. It was a happy occasion for the church as for the family for another one had accepted Christ as his Saviour.

James graduated from At-



REV. AND MRS. JAMES BUTLER

Atkinson High School on April 23, 1929; worked for S. H. Kress and Company for two years and for McLellan Stores for four. He resigned his job on June 2, 1934, the call to the ministry could be resisted no longer. He married Miss Anne McCanless on June 8, 1934; entered Wake Forest College on June 11, 1934 and graduated June 1, 1937 with a B.A. degree. He received his Masters in Theology on May 3, 1940 from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.

James Butler was pastor and organizer of Sunset Park Baptist Church May 1, 1942; he pastored in Indiana; Sylacauga, Alabama and Birmingham, Alabama. He was pastor of First Baptist Tuskegee, Alabama at his death July 23, 1974. During his 63 years he served as trustee of colleges and hospitals; was moderator of his association and "Man of the Year" in Birmingham, Alabama.

He was called a builder of churches having been pastor at the time of numerous building programs.

A special issue of the Tuskegee Lee Baptist Association minutes dedicated to Rev. Butler reads, "The Key to James Butler's life was Service--Service to God through Service to Others; Service to Christ's churches and service to his denomination, Service to his family and friends. Surely in the spirit of His Master, he was among us as one who served."

Atkinson Baptist are proud to have sent forth a man of this caliber.

Jimmy Roberts

Our Very Own

It was during the fall revival of 1946 that Jimmy Roberts was saved. T. K. Woody was pastor and Dr. John Bunn was evangelist.



REV. JIMMY ROBERTS

Jimmy's family, the M. D. Roberts were natives of Chester County, S. C. They moved to Atkinson in August 1946.

After graduating from Atkinson High School in 1951 and attending N. C. State College for a year, he knew he was called to preach. Jimmy spent two years in the army before completing his education.

On June 9, 1957 he married Lois Martin, a Meredith College senior. They have three sons.

Jimmy graduated from Southeastern Seminary in 1962 and served on active duty in Vietnam from September 1965 to June 1972 where he was a chaplain.

Having faced several crisis in his personal life, Jimmy feels that God has prepared him to minister to people in crisis situations.

He is presently pastor of the Woodfield Park Baptist church, Columbia, South Carolina.

Jimmy Roberts returned to preach the Baccalaureate sermon in May 1962, having been licensed to preach by the At-

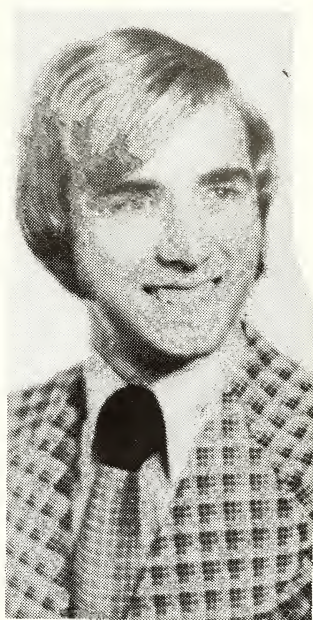
kinson Baptist church on July 7, 1957.

We are proud that our very own is serving God as an under shepherd.

His Gift is one of Counseling.

Frank Russ, Jr.

All In The Family



REV. FRANK RUSS

A fifth generation descendant of Jackie Woodcock, Frank Russ Jr., was licensed by the church to preach on February 3, 1974. Frank is the son of Mrs. Barbara Woodcock Russ Honeycutt and Frank Russ Sr.

Frankie was ordained by the Ivanhoe Baptist Church on February 1, 1976 with the Reverend Melvin Hall, W. L. Blanton and Paul Ketersön, officiating.

Frankie is a graduate of Atkinson High School, U.N.C. Wilmington and has enrolled

in Southeastern Seminary for the 1977 fall semester.

Presently, he is serving as Youth Director of the Burgaw Baptist Church.

Yes, it's still in the family, "Yours is a great heritage, Frankie,"

Memorials

Real Estate

In memory of J. S. Pope by his children.

In memory of Roscoe Vann Eakins Sr., and Harriet Colwell Eakins

Second Chimes and Second Steeple

In memory of Dr. G. C. Beard

Pulpit Chair

Mrs. Adrian Horell 1882-1960
Given By Her Family

Pulpit Bible

Mrs. Fannie Kerr Henry
April 11, 1870-November 25, 1952
Given By Her Family

Communion Table

Mr. George Highsmith, Sr.
Given By His Family

Communion Chairs

Given In Memory of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hill Pridgen By the A. H. Pridgen Family

Piano

Aaron Horace Kelly, Jr.
1930-1954. Given By His Family.

Chimes On Organ

Rudolph Horrell 1910-1969
Given By His Wife

First Chimes

In Memory of Miss Lena Mae Lewis 1849-1912. Given By Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Lewis Family.

Lights in Sactuary

In Memory of Durwood

Bostic, Sr. Given By His Family.

Air Conditioning

Given In Memory of Norwood C. Corbett by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Larkins and Mr. and Mrs. Marion J. Corbett.

A Contribution

In Memory of Miss Caroline Larkins 1871-1956 by Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Larkins.

Memorial Windows

Linwood A. Corbett
Killed in World War II

George W. Smith 1857-1921
Hettie Keith Smith 1855-1942

James Dixon Alderman 1848-1913. Eliza Keith Alderman 1856-1945.

Baptistry Window Memorial
William Harris Lewis, Father. Carrie Peterson Lewis, Mother. Given by Lewis Children.

William Corbett Keith 1848-1921. Katherine Lamb Keith 1856-1932.

Mack Horrell
Sarah Edens Horrell

Anna Balkcum Register 1881-1944.

Roscoe Vann Eakins, Sr. 1879-1942. Harriet Colwell Eakins 1881-1934, Given by Durward Legrand White, Mary Eakins White.

Adrian Horrell 1873-1933.

Furnishings of Educational Building Given in Memory Of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Alderman, C. V. Barnhill, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Benson, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Bostic, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Butler, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Croom, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Downing, A. C. Holley, Maurice Kelly, Jr., Wm. R. Lewis, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Peterson, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Pridgen, Sr., M. D. Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. W. Smith, Lonnie Jasper Turner, Carl Woodcock, and Marshall Woodcock.

Sunday School Superintendents

1903 David Lewis
1904 J. H. Dobson
1905 W. H. Lewis
1906 G. W. Smith
1907 G. W. Smith
1908 G. W. Smith
1909 W. G. Lewis
1910 W. H. Lewis
1911 W. H. Lewis
1912 E. G. Bostic
1913 E. G. Bostic
1914 T. S. Teague
1915 T. S. Teague
1916 T. S. Teague
1917 T. S. Teague
1918 H. E. Mills
1919 H. E. Mills
1920 W. C. Keith
1921 H. D. Bordeaux
1922 E. R. Thomas
1923 J. H. Highsmith
1924 J. H. Highsmith

1925 E. G. Bostic
1926 E. G. Bostic
1927 E. G. Bostic
1928 Dr. G. C. Beard
1929 Dr. G. C. Beard
1930 Dr. G. C. Beard
1931 Dr. G. C. Beard
1932 Dr. G. C. Beard
1933 Dr. G. C. Beard
1934 F. R. Lennon
1935 F. R. Lennon
1936 F. R. Lennon
1937 Matt R. Peterson
1938 Matt R. Peterson
1939 Matt R. Peterson
1940 Matt R. Peterson
1941 Norris C. Corbett
1942 Aaron Kelly
1943 Aaron Kelly
1944 Leslie Moore
1945 Dr. G. C. Beard
1946 Dr. G. C. Beard

1947 Norris C. Corbett
 1948 Roland Horrell
 1949 Roland Horrell
 1950 Maurice Kelly
 1951 Maurice Kelly
 1952 Eswood Malpass
 1953 Herman Downing
 1954 Herman Downing
 1955 A. H. Pridgen
 1956 Maurice Kelly
 1957 Maurice Kelly

1958 Maurice Kelly
 1959 Kenneth Woodcock
 1960 Jeff Horrell
 1961 Jeff Horrell
 1962 Jeff Horrell
 1963 W. Carroll Hamilton
 1964 W. Carroll Hamilton
 1965 W. Carroll Hamilton
 1966 W. Carroll Hamilton
 1967 W. Carroll Hamilton

1968 W. Carroll Hamilton
 1969 Lee Roy Johnson
 1970 Lee Roy Johnson
 1971 Lee Roy Johnson
 1972 Lee Roy Johnson
 1973 Lee Roy Johnson
 1974 Lee Roy Johnson
 1975 Jack Turner
 1976 Jack Turner
 1977 Jack Turner

The Teachings

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another. . ." Colossians 3:16.

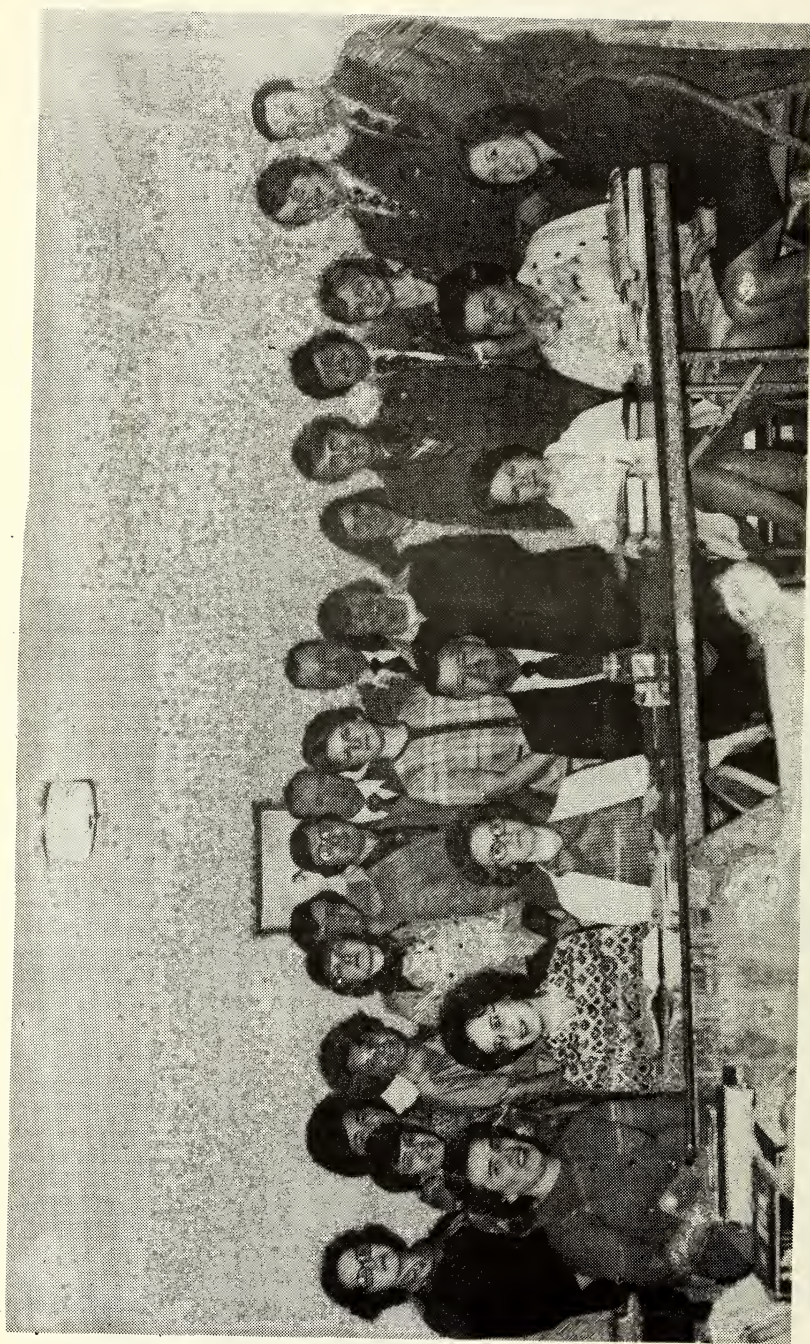
Presently there are 160 members in the Sunday School and an average attendance of about 100. There has been only one Sunday since 1903 when no Sunday School was held. The temperature was 10 degrees and the furnace was broken.



GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. Phil Horrell, assistant superintendent; Mrs. Henrietta Turner, secretary, and Jack Turner superintendent.

KAY JOHNSON teaches Toddlers, Robin Retherford and Robin Truitt.





THE PIONEER SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS taught by R. J. Corbett is a couples class. Front row left to right are: Virginia Barnhill, Benetta Turner, Emily Horrell, R. J. Corbett (teacher), Nancy Applewhite, Linda Clark and Sandy Green. Standing are: Betty Ray, Shirley Harvell, Julie Horrell, Katie Horrell, John Ray, Rhonda Rethelford, Billy Corbett, David Woodcock, Brenda Corbett, Raymond

Horrell, Eddie Carter, Cindy Henry, Kelly Bloodworth, Carlton Henry, Cammy Bloodworth, Wayne Applewhite and Jack Turner.

Not pictured are: Gene Eakins, David Harrell, Roy Harvell, Nancy King, Sara Jane Lanier, Earl Lanier, Betty Jean Woodcock, David Woodcock, Roy Johnson, Joann Horrell, Kenneth Barnhill, Carol Faircloth, Gail Lee and Elton Lee.



TAUGHT BY MRS. CLARA HORRELL, the Senior Ladies Class is called "The Caroline Larkins class." Left to right are: Mrs. Victoria Gurganious, Mrs. Alice Malpass, Mrs. Lessie Barnhill, Mrs. Clara Horrell, Mrs. Josephine Horrell, Mrs. Dorothy Register, Mrs. Mary Frances Pridgen, Mrs. Odessa Cromartie, Mrs. Fannie Lewis, Mrs. Maydee Woodcock, Mrs. Ivy Kelly and Mrs. Betty Horrell.



BEGINNERS IN SUNDAY SCHOOL are taught by Mrs. Julia Horrell. Back row are Jamie Woodcock, Mrs. Horrell, Scott Horrell, Matthew Barnhill, Michael Lanier and Kevin King. Front row are Sherri Horrell, Herman Downing, Alison Turner and Amy Barnhill. Not pictured are David Corbett and Ken Lee.



THE YOUNG PEOPLES SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS were all dressed up on Easter Sunday April 10, 1977. Left to right are: Jennie Simmons, Sheila Bloodworth, Paul Cobb, Kelly Marie Floyd, Diane Woodcock, Dale Woodcock, Sharon Butler and Liles Cobb. Not pictured are Kathy Horrell Corbett, Freddy Pridgen, and Mike Woodcock. Dora Corbett is their teacher.



VIRGINIA BARNHILL teaches Primaries in the Sunday School. Left to right are, Bryan Kelly, Jennifer Ann Harvell, Mrs. Barnhill, Lonnie Jason Turner and Nicholas Roland Horrell. Not pictured is Bill Corbett, Jr.



THE REBEKAK CLASS is taught by Neal Eakins. Front row left to right are Louise Woodcock, Kay Johnson, Jane Butler, Thelma Woodcock and Sue Truitt. Standing are Alice Johnson, Neal Eakins, Sophia Floyd, Polly Bloodworth, Lorese Horrell and Julia Horrell.

Not pictured are Jean Bloodworth, Hazel Eakins and Barbara Honeycutt.



THE ADELPHIAN SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS is taught by Edna Corbett. Seated are Gloria Barnhill, Hazel Horrell, Sudie Mae Horrell, and Sadie Henry. Standing are Edna Corbett, Alice Wells, Rachel Kelly, Maggie Wallace, Alice Horrell and Eleanor Kelly. Not present were Charlotte Colvin, Mavis Kelly, Edith Woodcock, Mary Croom and Lorena Henry.



JUNIOR BOYS seated around the table are: (left front) Scottie Smith, vice president; Randy Harrell; Stanley Harvell, president; Eddie King; Wesley Clark; Kenny Barnhill, treasurer; Ricky Horrell and Carlton Henry, teacher. Not present was Craig Downing.



THE MENS BIBLE CLASS, taught by Norris Corbett has an enrollment of twenty-six. Front row, left to right are John D. Eakins, Jimmy Eakins, Paul Wells, A. H. Pridgen and George David Kelly. Second row are: Steve Butler, Le Roy Johnson, Yates Colvin, Roderick Horrell, Jay Woodcock, Eugene Floyd, and Norris Corbett.

Back row are R. J. Corbett, Maurice Kelly, Frank Johnson, Morris Bloodworth, John Horrell, Jeff Horrell and Robert Truitt.

Not pictured are Gordon Bloodworth, Wiley Green, Simon Gurganious, Roland Horrell, Aaron Kelly, Donald Downing, Dalton Downing, Clayton Porter and Cletus Pridgen.



THE JUNIOR GIRLS CLASS is taught by Emily Simpson. Left to right are: Lessie Ann Barnhill, Mrs. Simpson, Ann Woodcock and Natalie Woodcock. Not pictured is Carmen Kelly.



THE YOUNG EXPLORERS taught by Mrs. Rachel Smith are: (seated) Sherry Woodcock, Terri Eakins, Robin Pridgen and Mrs. Smith. Standing are Steven Woodcock, Ross Floyd, and Ronnie Young. Not present were Mark Jordan and Connie Young.



CAMMY BLOODWORTH,
Nursery Director holds
Wendy Applewhite. Freddy
Simpson, Bennie Bloodworth
and Katie Foy Horrell
watched the Birdie!



ATKINSON BAPTIST CHURCH DEACONS, March 1977! Left to right are Wiley Green, Norris C. Corbett, Maurice Kelly, Jay Woodcock, A. H. Pridgen, John David Eakins, R. J. Corbett, Jeff Horrell and Eugene Floyd.

Not pictured are LeRoy Johnson, Aaron Kelly, Marion Harrell and Stanley Horrell.



A ONE STORY BRICK VENEER PARSONAGE was begun on December 1, 1957 and was debt free January 1963. The parsonage is located on third avenue. Building committee was: Roland Horrell, Mrs. Carroll Hamilton, Mrs. Otto Wells, and A. H. Pridgen.

Church Roll

May, 1977

Mis. Bessie Alderman	Lee Roy Cobb Wanda Cobb (Moved)	James Daniel (Danny) D Bose
Nancy J. Applewhite Wayne Applewhite	John Gray Cobb Johnny Cobb (Va.) Annie Cobb (Married) Margie Cobb Alma Cobb (College) Paul Cobb Liles Cobb	Eugene (Gene) Eakins Fay Woodcock Eakins J. V. (Jimmy) Eakins Hazel K. Eakins Terri Eakins
Russell Adams Josephine B. Adams		
Clarence Baker Maria Baker Roy Baker		
Mrs. J. B. (Naomi) Baker	Mrs. J. M. Cobb (Alma)	John David Eakins Neal G. Eakins
Sandra Baker (Married)	Yates Colvin Charlotte B. Colvin	Eugene R. Floyd, Sr. Sophia Kelly Floyd Kelly Marie Floyd Ross Floyd
Floyd Barnhill	Mrs. Lillie Colvin Mrs. Dorothy Moffitt	
Robert Barnhill	Lacy Corbett	Barbara Foster Susan Foster
Lessie Barnhill Joyce A. Barnhill (Married)	Mrs. Katie Corbett Freda C. Brittain (Raleigh) N. C. (Ben) Corbett Dora Corbett Clyde Corbett Emily C. Simpson	Jeanette Flynn Harts L. J. Gray, Sr.
Kenneth Barnhill Virginia Barnhill		W. J. Greene, Sr. Jewel Green
Evelyn Barnhill (Married)		
Gordon Bloodworth Polly Bloodworth Shelia Bloodworth	Billy Corbett Brenda P. Corbett	Sandra Green
Kelly Bloodworth Cammie R. Bloodworth	R. J. Corbett Edna Corbett	Mrs. Rodney (Vistoria) Gur ganious
Maurice Bloodworth Jean T. Bloodworth	Mrs. Odessa Cromartie (Graham)	Tommy Gause
Rhonda B. Retherford	Graham Croom	Mrs. Gladys B. Haire Wayne Haire
Dewey Bordeaux	Marion Croom	Mrs. Alton Harrell Edith Woodcock
Margaret Bostic Williams Linda Sue Bostic	Mrs. Earl Croom	Marion Harrell Maude Harrell Eddie Alton Harrell
Mrs. Idell W. Brickhouse	Mrs. J. C. Davis (Dorothy Harrell)	Carl Henry Sadie Henry Carlton Henry
J. C. Butler	Mrs. Wilma J. (K. M.) Day	Mrs. J. T. Henry (Lorena) Mrs. Joyce H. Barnes
Steve Butler Jane Butler Sharon Butler	Dalton Downing Betty Downing Brenda D. Rhyme	Robert Thomas Henry
Boise Ray Carter	Mrs. Ethel K. Downing	
Jimmy Clark	Donald Downing Barbara P. Downing	Mrs. A. C. Holley (Annie)

Callie M. Horrell	Aaron Kelly Iva B. Kelley	Mrs. Iris Bostic Rinaldi
Mrs. Ethel Horne Bordeaux	M. F. Kelly, Sr. Rachel B. Kelly George David Kelly	Ima Jean Sherman Patricia Sherman
Carl Horrell Julia C. Horrell	Troy Kelly, Sr. Mavis D. Kelly Jane K. Robinson (Raleigh)	Mrs. Bessie H. Simpson Lee Simpson
Mrs. Catherine Horrell Cathy Horrell	Eleanor Kelly	Ginnie Simmons
Nettie Horrell	Ray Knowles	Mrs. Rachel Smith
Mrs. Sudie Mae Horrell	Elton Lee	Mr. Thomas A. Smith (Tom)
Jeff Horrell Hazel Horrell Phil Horrell	Mrs. Floy Lennon	Mrs. John Spence
John E. Horrell Lorese Horrell Kathy Horrell	C. Tommy Lewis	Joyce Teachey Johnny Teachey
Raeferd Horrell Mary Va. H. Whitley	Mrs. W. F. (Fanny) Lewis	Mrs. Henrietta Turner Lee Turner (Service)
Roderick Horrell Clara Horrell Tommy Horrell Sara June H. Ranier	Alice W. Malpass	Jack Turner Bonita Turner
Raymond Horrell Julie H. Horrell	Mrs. Flora C. Malpass	J. B. Thomas Mrs. J. B. Thomas Ordell G. Thomas Mrs. Ordell G. Thomas Glen Thomas
Roland Horrell Betty W. Horrell	Mrs. Ruth G. Maynard	Sue Truitt Robert Truitt
Mrs. Alice Horrell	Mrs. Mary O'Bryant	Spunky Wallace (Service) Nita W. Moore (Currie)
Mrs. Willie (Josephine) Horrell Stanley Horrell	Walter Moore Janet Moore Colleen Moore Karen Moore	Mrs. Maggie Wallace Johnny Wallace
Mrs. Bessie J. (Randall) Howard	Timmy New Margaret New Wanda New Janet New	Mrs. Alice C. Wells
Mrs. Dallas Johnson	Joseph Pridgen	Paul Wells Mabel Wells Paula Wells
Alton Johnson	Mrs. Mable S. Pridgen	Mrs. Mildred P. Williams
Kay J. (Johnny) Jordon	A. H. Pridgen Mary F. Pridgen Sam P. Ford (Raleigh) Sue P. Futrell (Wallace) Lynn Pridgen Robin Pridgen	Helen Williamson Barnhill
Frank Johnson Kaye B. Johnson	Cletus Pridgen Melody Pridgen Frederick Pridgen	Mrs. Floyd Woodcock
Hazel Johnson (Woodcock)	Clayton Portor	Mrs. A. C. (Edna) Woodcock, Jr.
Lee Roy Johnson Alice S. Johnson	Dorothy C. Register	Leo Woodcock
Roy Johnson Feresa S. Johnson	Mrs. Iula Downing Rothlinger	Mrs. Katie Woodcock Barbara W. Honeycutt
Charles Justice	Mrs. Bertha J. Robertson	Harry Woodcock

David Woodcock
Betty Jean Woodcock
Michael Woodcock
Sherry Woodcock
Stevie Woodcock

Jay Woodcock
Louise D. Woodcock
Richard Woodcock
Diane Woodcock

Sara Woodcock (Married)
Drucille Woodcock (Married)

Roy Woodcock
Stacey Woodcock

Katie Faith Woodcock
Mrs. Thelma Woodcock
Dale Woodcock

Mrs. Cindy Woodcock
Thelma Woodcock (Married)

Mary Ann Woodcock

Aaron Woodcock

William Harris Woodcock

Dorothy Moore

Meta Bloodworth Sneed

Mrs. Maydee Woodcock
Gloria Barnhill

Deacons, Past and Present

Clarence Barnhill
Tom Woodcock
Washington Henry
G. W. Horrell
W. H. Lewis
G. W. Smith
Dr. G. C. Beard
Matt Peterson
J. H. Highsmith
Jim Register
S. L. Moore
Christine Moore
J. S. Pope

George Highsmith
R. V. Eakins Sr.
Jeff Horrell
John David Eakins
Marshall Woodcock
Maurice Kelly
Eswood Malpass
Carroll Hamilton
Herman Downing
F. M. Kuykendall
Durwood Bostic

A. H. Pridgen
Jay Woodcock
LeRoy Johnson
R. J. Corbett
Aaron Kelly
Eugene Floyd
Wiley Green
Milton Green
Stanley Horrell
Marion Harrell
Norris C. Corbett



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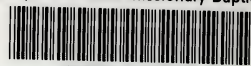
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